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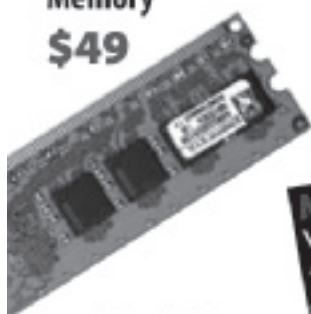
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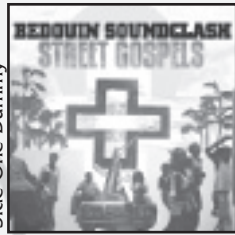
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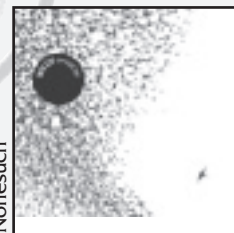
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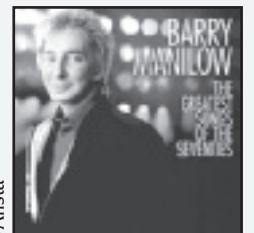
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contents

VOL. 27, NO. 12 NOVEMBER 23, 2007

- 6** **PAGE TWO** Searching in Dreamland
8 **POSTMARKS** Best of luck to Stephen Moser, the war against the music scene continues, and more



'Postmarks' online – updated (almost) daily
austinchronicle.com/webextra

NEWS

- 15** Messy Investigation of a Mess; TYC Shows Little Evidence of 'Reform' at State Schools; Wal-Mart Fight Update; and More



Police Monitor Clifford Brown's memo to City Manager Toby Futrell about the internal affairs investigation into the shooting death of Kevin Brown, as well as Futrell's response to the memo
austinchronicle.com/webextra

POINT AUSTIN Fierce Urgency

- 16** **BESIDE THE POINT** Internal Pleading

- 18** **DEVELOPING STORIES** Park Once, Invest Twice

- 25** **THE HIGHTOWER REPORT** Bush's Deepest Health-Care Shame; and The All-Natural Filmflam

- 30** **INHUMAN RESOURCES** City HR employees rebel over director's actions, city response
BY WELLS DUNBAR

- 34** **LETTERS @3AM** Memories of Norman Mailer

ARTS

- 37** Wrapping Up 365 Days/365 Plays; Feasting on Baroque for Thanksgiving; and Toasting Bubba and Babe's Backwoods Wedding

- 38** **ENTRANCED** Remembering one who fascinated us all: Karen Kuykendall

- 42** **BOOKS** Shooting War and *The Hypocrisy of Disco: A Memoir*

- 44** **AFTER A FASHION** A number of handsome lovelies work on the runway in this week's fashion pics

FOOD

- 47** Thanksgiving Wines; 17th Annual ThunderCloud Subs Turkey Trot; Event Menu: Nov. 23-26; and Food-o-File

- 48** **THE STAFF OF LIFE** Bread for the holidays

- 53** **RESTAURANT ROULETTE** A spin around our Restaurant Guide

SCREENS

- 56** AFS Essential Cinema: Philippe Garrel; *No Country for Squash Fruit*; DVD Watch: *I Am Cuba*

- 58** **YOU AIN'T GOIN' NOWHERE** Writer/director Todd Haynes on Dylan, Sturm und Drang, and the long shadow of the Sixties
BY SPENCER PARSONS



More with Todd Haynes
austinchronicle.com/webextra

- 59** **TV EYE** Funny Finds a New Home

MUSIC

- 61** **OFF THE RECORD** Filming on location at the Broken Spoke, the Summer Wardrobe dresses up Roky Erickson's skeletons, and Thurston loves Stubb's

- 62** **JESSE DAYTON & BRENNEN LEIGH** No, they're not 'dating,' but their country duets are
BY DOUG FREEMAN

- 66** **TEXAS PLATTERS** *Broadcasts Vol. 15*, deEP End, 7 and 7 Is, plus new platters from Wendy Colonna, the Texas Sapphires, Mark David Ashworth, Thor Harris, Chris Vestre, Coma in Algiers, the Flood, etc.

- 70** **NEWS OF THE WEIRD** Tickets issued for driving while eating cereal, a 200-yard spider web, and more

CALENDAR

72 COMMUNITY

Eat leftover turkey with Leslie at BookPeople, run your car on leftover cooking oil at MonkeyWrench, and start all over again at the Turkey Shoot with a brand-new bird

- 74** **DAY TRIPS** Bearly Making It isn't your ordinary chain-saw sculpture operation

- 76** **PLAYING THROUGH** Not only is the Longhorn volleyball team winning; they are having fun doing it
SOCCER WATCH The Houston Dynamo win their second straight MLS Championship, and more



'Soccer Watch' online: Semiregular updates from everywhere
austinchronicle.com/webextra



COVER PHOTOGRAPHY BY TODD V. WOLFSON

78 ARTS

Theatre: *La Putain Avec les Fleurs*

Dance: *Footprints*

Visual Arts: 'The Book of Lenny'

84 FILM

I'm Not There, *The Mist*, *Hitman*, *Enchanted*, *August Rush*, *This Christmas*

86 SHOWTIMES

- 92** **SPECIAL SCREENINGS** *Blade Runner: The Final Cut*; *The Regular Lovers*; *Paris, Texas*; *The Song Remains the Same*; *Showgirls 2.0*; *Punk's Not Dead*; *Paris Is Burning*; *My Name Is Albert Ayler*

94 MUSIC

RECOMMENDED Black Cobra gets epic, plus Ghostface Killah, Lil' Brian & the Travelers, Kelly Willis & Bruce Robison, Alasdair Roberts, José González, Cass McCombs, Vampire Weekend, Miró Quartet, the AMH open house, and much more

96 VENUES

98 CLUB LISTINGS AND ROADSHOWS

BACK

- 117** **COMICS** *Coffee Man*, *Troubletown*, *Bitter Yeti*, and more
MR. SMARTY PANTS The real meaning of the word 'dork' is 'a whale's penis,' the first Beagle to visit America was George Harrison, and more



Ask Mr. Smarty Pants – sooner or later, he'll answer
austinchronicle.com/webextra

118 CLASSIFIEDS

- 129** **THE COMMON LAW** Holiday shopping: cash or charge?

- 130** **CAR TALK** All weather doesn't always call for all-wheel drive

133 EASY STREET, PERSONALS

THE LUV DOC A rambling recommendation to shore up your social calendar

- 135** **FREE WILL ASTROLOGY** We want to be inside you, Pisces; unleash the most intense orgy of growth, Leo

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UPDATED BUZZ
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EARACHE! Girlie Action **2007 CD WRAP-UP.** Off the Record talks alcohol allergies with Marky Ramone, and more

PICTURE IN PICTURE: Film, TV, games, and more fun with **MOVING PICTURES**

CHRONIQUE: Postapocalyptic **BEARS** on the Eastside, visual markers and **MORTALITY.** and other weighty design matters

Chronic is now your one-stop blog shop for buzz on politics, sports, music, film, television, gaming, technology, design, gay stuff, and – do we even need to say it? – opinion. Our blogs as you knew them still exist, but now all posts will also feed into one crazy mash-up – newest on top, just like you like it.

THE GAY PLACE: SAVE BOOKWOMAN SOME MORE.
Plus: Kate & K8 & Andy & Edith talk turkey.

CHRONIC: Quick hits from Reefer Madness, more election announcements, and, Santa willing, a **TRYPTOPHAN OVERDOSE**

THE SCORE: Josh Rosenblatt previews the **AUSTIN TOROS'** upcoming campaign, and more sports tidbits and whatnot from here and afar



web extra

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Searching in Dreamland

Where music takes us **BY LOUIS BLACK**

There are some simple truths about life. There are also far more complicated ones; still, for the most part, life is not moored in such understandable ways. Everything is moving too quickly, too slowly, or not moving in the turmoil of daily life at its most mundane. Uncertainty and confusion, along with a focus on just moving forward, finds one with few contemplative moments.

When a simple truth and a life event align, it is a time of defining pleasure, if only for a breath. Knowing who you are and where allows a certain relaxation. Bigger truths rarely provide any respite. Trying to clarify cause and effect in one's life is as necessarily dishonest as plotting the chronology of events and/or relationships. By necessity more is left out than included when something that happens in time and space, involving layers of varied emotions and perceptions, focused by one's outlook, offers just a shadow of what happened, losing meaning, resonance, nuance, and shading.

All this by way of getting to somewhere quite far away by the end of this column. Unfortunately, I really do have to write my way to where I'm going, though usually I just jettison these introductions. It being Thanksgiving, a gift for those who detest this column seemed appropriate. Now, it's almost always best to start at the beginning, which usually really is a beginning – a place where you've chosen to start. This column begins in the muck, drenched in mud and stinking of dead vegetation, without getting all that much better.

The story here has to begin in one of the three dormitories that made up Boston University's West Campus, which in 1968 was directly adjacent to the football field. (Where this column is going is still not close but does emanate from here.) A friend and I had gone down to the lobby of the dorm to the "coffee shop," where snacks were sold, which was just an enclosed space in the brick-and-linoleum vastness of the building, distinguished only by its very low lighting.

Stopping at the jukebox, we looked over the available selections. Alan and I, having just met, were just getting to know each other, this budding friendship anchored by a love of rock as much as anything. Serious fans of the Byrds, we had discussed how perplexing we found *Sweetheart of the Rodeo*, their new album. Country music in and of itself represented an encyclopedia's worth of stereotypes and caricatures to us Northern kids, and this was a country album. Even more upsetting was that it was by the Byrds, although down to only two original members, who through five albums released in three years had not only mapped the new frontiers of rock but had also continually expanded beyond them. Now they were playing country music. After a cursory first listen, I had not listened to the record again.

One of the jukebox's selections was Woody Guthrie's song "Pretty Boy Floyd," as covered by the Byrds from *Sweetheart*. While continuing to look at the available songs, we played it. We both ended up listening intently; we played no more selections, instead taking the elevator back up to Alan's dorm room to listen to *Sweetheart of the Rodeo* – over and over and over.

This was the beginning of a shared journey through American music over the next half-decade that was crucial in defining my tastes and interests for the rest of my life. Listening to music was life-defining then – an experience that was political, romantic, social, and/or poetic. Music was a breathing tube to the surface, a lamp held up to guide us onward through the fog. Music was so important that much of our time was spent in efforts at discovery – not just in finding out about new bands or new albums by favorite bands but by exploring the root system of rock, which was almost every form of American music that came before it.

Alan's and my personal relationship often got rocky and occasionally even ugly, but listening to music together was always removed from that turbulence. Alan was always an enthusiastic and reliable partner; interested

in learning about music but also continually awestruck by it, regularly experiencing a rebirth of wonder.

Alan visited me once when I was going to college in Putney, Vt. Inevitably, by early evening a bunch of my friends had joined us at a local bar, where we swapped stories and told lies. During the course of the evening, Alan took to talking about his family's ski chateau, halfway across the state at Mount Snow, with much love and affection, evoking more than one vein of magic. At the urging of my friends and to the sheer delight of Alan, we decided on the spur of the moment to visit.

Living in Putney, we celebrated the rustic and rural. Vermont was a very poor state at the time, which caused great hardship to its citizens but also left many of the state's farms, barns, buildings, and old towns intact, if often empty. I was living in an old farmhouse that I breathed in deeply, feeling its age and freshness.

After stopping to buy more groceries than should be legal, we finally made it to the chateau. Now, I had been uncertain about my friends' enthusiasm for this visit, as they were among the most back-to-the-earth people I knew – with teepees, dogs, and uncut hair, happily disappearing into the woods on snowshoes even during drenching snowstorms. I knew that Alan's family's place was just one of many "chateaux" in developments surrounding the ski areas of Mount Snow.

Having been there several times, I regarded the place as just another residential-development building, though in an unusually beautiful area. My insensitivity and personal preoccupation are legendary, but at the time my level of clueless, naive disinterest in what was going on around me was at its all-time high. It had not even crossed my mind that, as Alan was euphorically describing the place, my friends were seeing a house far more out of *Heidi* than Long Island. Saying they were disappointed is an understatement.

There being considerable alcohol and tons of food, all was soon forgotten as we took to preparing an enormous, elaborate breakfast meal, though dawn was still hours away. Alan, after getting the stereo to work, played all kinds of records.

Sometime in the course of all this, he put on the first Moby Grape album. This was by no means the first time I had heard it, but this was the time that it put its hand on my head, which filled me with the spirit while knocking me down. The extraordinary ambition and

Office Closed Thursday and Friday

The *Chronicle* offices will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday, Nov. 22, and Friday, Nov. 23, and will reopen for regular business hours Monday, Nov. 26.

beauty of the album got to me. I insisted Alan play it again. And then again.

Over time, *Moby Grape* has proven to be among the very few albums that continued to sound just ice-ripping fresh every time they're listened to, even if hundreds if not thousands of times. Most amazing is that sometimes it smacks me on the head again as though I've never heard it before.

Now, in a future, though no more cohesive, column (if not a feature article), I'm planning on going into great detail about why the very first cut on the album is one of the truly revolutionary songs of all time, from its tearing opening on. This is true even though the lyrics are "Hey Grandma you're so young/Your old man is just a boy/Been a long time this time POW, POW, POW." But that explanation is not for here or now.

Back then it was impossible not to be aware of Led Zeppelin. Even though not a major fan, I was familiar enough with the band's music because it was played constantly and everywhere. Still, I neither knew their albums very well nor awaited any of them with any sense of expectation. I devoured every bit of information that I could find on the groups that I loved. Led Zeppelin was not one of these. I knew their hit songs and the names of the members but not much else. I was certainly unimpressed by golden pretty boy Robert Plant.

Over the years, however, just regularly hearing Zeppelin's music, I've become much more of a fan (though never crossing over to actually buying the back catalog). In 2002, Robert Plant released *Dreamland*, a solo album that included songs by not only Tim Buckley and the Youngbloods but by Grape mainstay Skip Spence, as well.

This encouraged me to listen to more Plant and Zeppelin, a state that was considerably elevated when *Chronicle* Music Editor Raoul Hernandez gave me a CD of Plant covering four Moby Grape songs. Closely listening to Plant sing, with Zeppelin and solo, I realized how oblivious I had been, once again missing


continued on p.8

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JEWELRY AND FOLK ART

the obvious – that Plant started as a terrific singer who then become extraordinary. I offer this not as a revelation, as most of you are well aware of it, but just a point about what you can miss if you’re searching too hard.

There are some simple truths in my life. Music leads to music but should never lead to excluding music – because I love one genre doesn’t mean I shun any other. Music can take me places where I want to go that I can’t get to otherwise. The right music playing in the car, with the fresh smell of morning outside, is often more than enough.

There are these truths. Almost never at peace and never calm through so much of my life, I finally learned the joy in the absence of anxiety, emotion, thought, and preoccupation. When I kick “I” out of “I,” it immediately gets better. There is no better way to do this than by listening to music.

Driving to work this morning, listening to the extraordinary new recording by Robert Plant and Alison Krauss, I did not think about this. I did not reflect on the Byrds, *Sweetheart of the Rodeo*, Vermont, the first Moby Grape album, or Robert Plant. I did not think but listened, shutting my mouth and mind. The music was the only and the all of everything as it flowed over me, sinking into my body, liberating the meager sense of joy and excitement not yet extinguished. I was young, I was old, and I wasn’t there, just listening. Music can make one’s life so much better, and this morning it did so for mine. ■

POSTMARKS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR must be signed with full name and include daytime phone number, full address, or e-mail address. Letters should be no longer than 300 words. We reserve the right to edit all submissions. Letters may not be edited, added to, or changed by sender once we receive them.

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It Ain’t Me Babe: Stolen Identity

Dear Editor,

Oh my God – I’m perusing the recent *Chronicle*, and I scan over the article [“APD Pot-Hunters Are Data-Mining at AE,” News, Nov. 16] covering Austin Energy’s highly suspect relationship with an Austin drug cop when I notice that the blown-up e-mail has my name as the recipient. Holy stolen identity, what the hell is this? It’s bad enough that someone out there has taken your name, but when the joker drags it through knee-deep mud with bad, bad behavior, what’s the innocent man supposed to do? *Stand up and shout “It ain’t me babe.”* I’m the film editor; trash me for botching your million-dollar baby, but this kind of publicity will ruin my reputation. I’m on your side, Travis Colby.

Mark Coffey
The original

Story Doesn’t Blow Whistles

Dear Editor,

I’m not sure the Austin Police Department’s request for electricity usage stats actually constitutes a Fourth Amendment violation [“APD Pot-Hunters Are Data-Mining at AE,” News, Nov. 16]. Given that the information obtained by APD is obtainable by virtually anyone who asks

for it for long enough, one can’t reasonably expect that this defense has any legs to get to the Supreme Court. Sorry, Jordan Smith, your story isn’t blowing many whistles, either, but I’m sure Mr. Mark Coffey enjoys the doubtless volumes of calls and e-mails from pissed-off pot advocates who probably don’t sound too concerned with peace, love, or understanding. It seems the only way to truly avoid these embarrassing incidents in the future would be to legalize it, no?

Andrew Alter

Sometimes It’s Just Lousy Fans

Dear Editor,

Here’s the deal: I was paying about \$450 a month for electricity – month after month after month. Way too much for the size of my house. My air conditioning went out, and I had the outside fan motor and the inside fan motor replaced, and now I pay about \$225 a month for electricity. If the energy Nazis want to read my energy bill and then enter my homestead, totally disregarding the Fourth Amendment, and all they find is faulty fan motors, I say they should pay me for the AC repairs and then immediately lose their jobs for violating my constitutional rights [“APD Pot-Hunters Are Data-Mining at AE,” News, Nov. 16].

Rick Harvey

Best of Luck, Brother Stephen

Dear Stephen Moser,

I’ve never met you, and your column is hardly the first I read upon obtaining a *Chronicle*. But I was saddened to learn that you have been diagnosed with prostate cancer [“After a Fashion,” Arts, Nov. 16]. I wish you the best of luck in fighting this insidious disease.

I recall a headline from *The Onion*: “Man Dies After Cowardly Battle With Cancer.” Don’t let this black humor header come to define you. Not everyone can fight cancer like Lance Armstrong did, with his middle finger raised, but neither should one collapse into disillusion and self-pity.

Fight the cancer the same way you have lived your life – with grace and style. Thinking of getting a bed jacket? Buy seven for each day of the week. Doctor says you have to have your testicles removed? Have them replaced with the biggest fucking artificial orbs you can find.

Be true to yourself. And look down your nose at cancer as if it’s some poorly dressed, uninvited guest at the party that is your life.

Best of luck, brother.

Sincerely,
Patrick Roten


Voters Are Happy and Clueless

Dear Editor,

Once again, the people of Texas never saw a bond issue they didn’t love. Thank God Lance Armstrong and his foundation didn’t propose spending \$10 billion on Proposition 15 or \$20 billion or the entire budget of the state, because I get the feeling that the majority of voters would just as happily, and cluelessly, have pulled the lever for those, as well [“Travis Co. Vote,” News, Nov. 16].

continued on p.10

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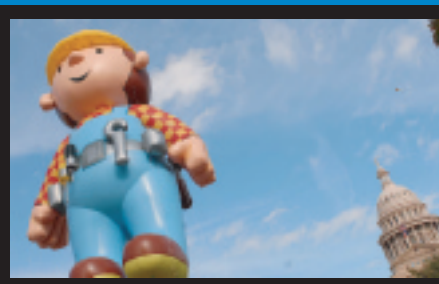
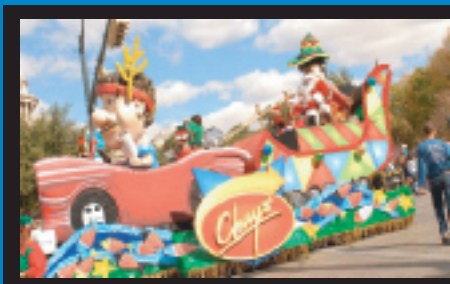
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<p>MUSIC BY: Mariachi En Fuego</p>	
<p>COMMUNITY FORUM: 1pm THE UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANT EDUCATE OR DENY? Moderated by Dr. Mariano Diaz-Miranda, Director of Latin American Studies, Austin Community College</p>	<p>The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the American's with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request.</p>

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POSTMARKS :: FROM P.8

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

TEN YEARS AGO, THE ACTIONS OF A SITTING PRESIDENT LED TO A DEBATE MOST AMERICANS NEVER EXPECTED TO SEE.

IF THE PRESIDENTIAL YOU-KNOW-WHAT DID NOT COME INTO ACTUAL CONTACT WITH THE INTERN'S YOU-KNOW-WHERE--

--CAN IT REALLY BE CONSIDERED "SEX"?

OH, FOR THOSE HAPPY, CAREFREE DAYS...

AS A JUSTIFICATION, PROPONENTS OFTEN INVOKE THE "TICKING BOMB" SCENARIO--THE IMPLAUSIBILITY OF WHICH SHOULD BE APPARENT TO ANY BRIGHT FIFTH GRADER...

THERE'S A NUCLEAR BOMB SET TO GO OFF IN TEN MINUTES! THE ONLY WAY WE CAN SAVE LOS ANGELES IS TO TORTURE THIS GUY!

HOW EXCITING! IT'S JUST LIKE AN EPISODE OF "24"!

TODAY, THE ACTIONS OF A VERY DIFFERENT PRESIDENT HAVE LED TO A VERY DIFFERENT DEBATE... ONE I DAMN SURE NEVER EXPECTED TO SEE...

IF THE TECHNIQUE OF SIMULATED DROWNING DOES NOT RESULT IN ACTUAL ORGAN FAILURE OR DEATH--

--CAN IT REALLY BE CONSIDERED "TORTURE"?

AND THEN THERE IS THE QUESTION OF WHETHER TORTURE EVEN WORKS...THOUGH TORTURE DEVOTEE ALAN DERSHOWITZ ASSURES US IT DOES--

"--AS EVIDENCED BY THE MANY DECENT MEMBERS OF THE FRENCH RESISTANCE WHO, UNDER NAZI TORTURE, DISCLOSED THE LOCATIONS OF THEIR CLOSEST FRIENDS AND RELATIVES!"

AND IF IT WORKED FOR THE NAZIS...

"ACTUAL QUOTE!"

SERIOUSLY: WHO EVER IMAGINED THAT IN THE FIRST DECADE OF THIS NEW CENTURY, AMERICANS WOULD BE NONCHALANTLY DISCUSSING HOW MUCH TORTURE IS ACCEPTABLE?

IS THE MEDIEVAL THUMBSCREW REALLY ANY WORSE THAN BANGING YOUR THUMB WITH A HAMMER?

AND AS FOR THE RACK-- WELL, LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT MY CHIROPRACTOR! HA, HA!

OF COURSE, DEMOCRATS HAD A CHANCE TO TAKE A CLEAR MORAL STAND WITH THE MUKASEY CONFIRMATION...AND, PREDICTABLY, DECLINED...

--BUT WE DO INTEND TO CAST VERY DISAPPROVING LOOKS IN HIS DIRECTION WHENEVER WE SEE HIM!

I WILL EVEN GO SO FAR AS TO MURMUR "TSK, TSK" UNDER MY BREATH!

BECAUSE AMERICA NEEDS LEADERSHIP!

NEXT--THE IRON MAIDEN: CRUEL AND UNUSUAL--OR SOMEWHAT UNCOMFORTABLE?

Contrary to Lance's pronouncements, Election Day was not a triumph for the state but another demonstration that a determined activist minority can get 6% of registered voters to commit the other 94% to something that might not be best for everyone. If the Armstrong Foundation had really wanted to see how much support Texans had for its proposal, it would have asked for voluntary donations to fund the Cancer Prevention Institute. It was smart enough to avoid that dead end, however, and instead relied on coercion at the polls. Party on, Lance. Party on, doctors. I'll be checking in with you in 10 years, after the money's gone, and if you actually have prevented cancer, the cake's on me. If not, I'd like my money back. Deal?

Sincerely,
Alan McKendree

Political Sarcasm

Dear Editor,

Kudos to Mr. Steven McCloud for his accurate analysis of what a true democracy is ["Postmarks," Nov. 16]. Why should anyone vote for or support a nonmainstream candidate? Conformity is all the rage these days, so jump on the bandwagon, people. I applaud his ability to buy into the two-party system and the information the mainstream media is happily filtering and feeding him. What this country really needs is a candidate that everyone can get behind, and that candidate should be the one picked by our nonbiased press. After all, Dr. Paul's message about individual freedom, smaller government, and nonintervention is garbage that the American people should not support. We want more restrictions, more security, more wars, and, most importantly, more taxes coming out of our quickly declining dollar. I am happy to hand my vote to a likely candidate now that I have seen the error in my ways.

Brandon Harris

Was It Just a Dream?

Dear Editor,

What noise ordinance ["Page Two," Nov. 9]? Can it be a dream? So long ago and far away. Musicians playing so loud and content. So much free parking and cheap beer prices. Bands and their fans. Music nirvana in South Austin. Sam's Town Point Bar never met a decibel level it didn't like.

A music lover,
Pat Rowland

War Against Music Scene

Dear Editor,

In the guise of urban development, the City Council continues to wage war on Austin's internationally acclaimed entertainment district by setting their sights on the vulnerable clubs lining Red River. Last Friday I went to a late-night outdoor show at Mohawk and got an upclose look at the skeletal monstrosity growing rapidly across the street. Its second-story windows at 10th and Red River peered over "the range's" black iron fence down at the grubby garage-rockers bopping to the King Khan & BBQ show. Do you even need to wonder what the day traders lured to Red River's newest posh digs will think about a hundred or so people slipping around on broken glass to the scream of amplifiers two lanes away? Clubs will have to severely limit outdoor shows, but what about when South by Southwest rolls around, and thousands of tourists fill the sidewalks chasing live music all day and night? The police and fire departments will be only too happy to enforce confusing noise and capacity ordinances so yuppie transplants might rest cozy and safe in their mortgaged human kennels.

Downtown has been the nexus for Austin's live-music scene for years, and while dozens of clubs have come and gone, we are currently on pace to lose most of them. The fate of our local music scene won't matter much to fans of corporate juggernauts like Tool, but all major rock movements begin with a small community of talented, ambi-

continued on p.12

austinchronicle.com/postmarks
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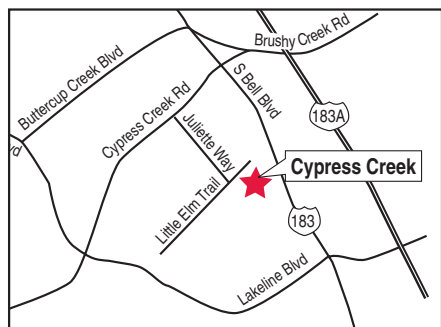
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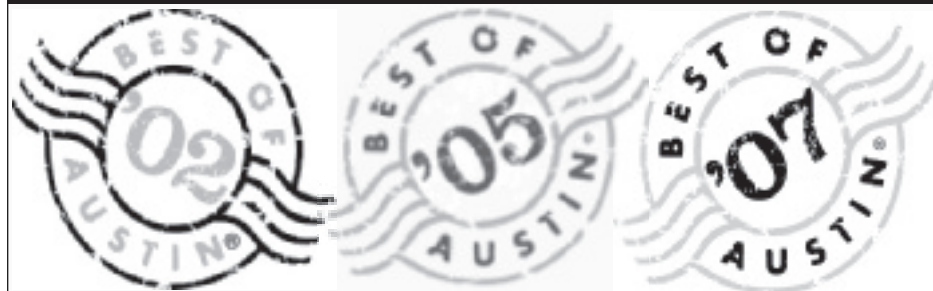
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Fierce Urgency

While they're asking for votes – where are they *now*?

BY MICHAEL KING

Happy Valentine's Day!

Having just cleared the plates from your Thanksgiving Day leftovers, you're probably not quite ready to write out your valentines. Indeed, you're probably not ready for "Black Friday," that annual feast of commercial consumption, which this year, we're told, began somewhere around midnight Wednesday. And you're certainly not yet ready for Christmas.

But judging from the national political calendar, we're somewhere in the middle of February 2008 and expected to be at full speed on a presidential primary campaign that may well be decided before it ever arrives in Texas next May – and decided by a handful of states mostly distinguished by being less populous, less diverse, and less representative than the rest of the country, including our particularly cantankerous southwestern portion of it. It's a little like rooting for the Red Sox against the Yankees – I can yell at the TV all I like but ain't nobody up there listening.

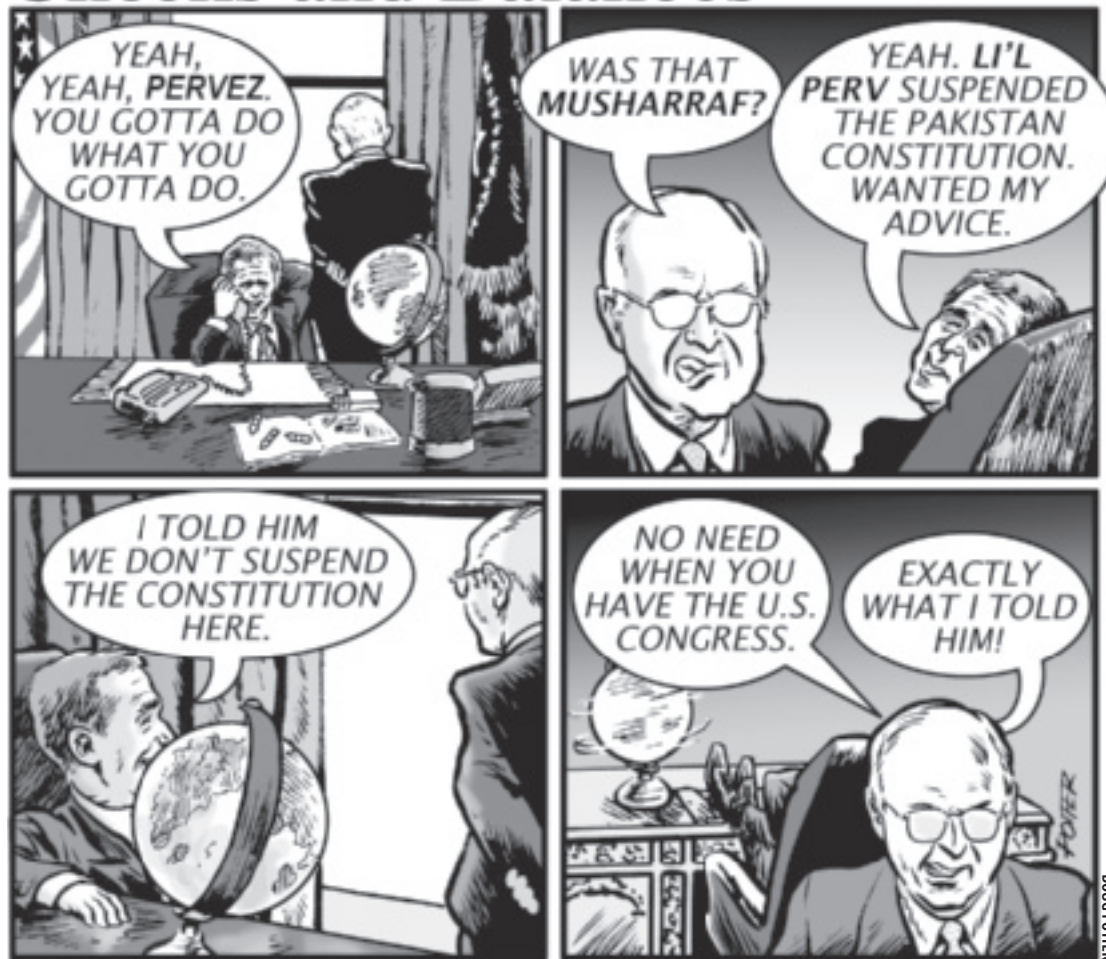
Austin voters did get sort of an early Thanksgiving present last Saturday, as Illinois Sen. Barack Obama, reportedly polling second on the Dem side to New York Sen. Hillary Clinton, paid his second public visit to these parts, stopping by the Backyard for a quick stump speech between private fundraisers in Houston and later that evening here. The Backyard appearance was not the emotional, exhilarating barn burner that his February Auditorium Shores rally turned out to be (although local rock favorite Fastball inevitably amplified its hourlong set as though we were 20,000 attendees instead of 3,000; tinnitus, here we come). The distance from Downtown, the paid admission (some 3,500 folks at \$15 to \$25 a pop), and even the frizzy weather restricted the numbers a bit, but it was a lively enough event – serving as much to emphasize how distant we are from the actual electoral decision as that Obama has a soft spot for Austin, where he polls and fundraises well.

Stumped

One bit of distracting evidence was the candidate's slightly Austinized stump speech, which was understandably more polished than his February address but lacked thereby the passion that he then gave to his historical reconstruction of the American promise. Here on Saturday, he was walking his sound bites: "As president, I will end the war in Iraq. We will have our troops home in 16 months. I will close Guantanamo. I will restore habeas corpus. I will finish the fight against al Qaeda. And I will lead the world to combat

continued on p.16

Checks and Balances



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Although individuals from all faiths are welcome to worship with us at **Hyde Park Baptist Church**, the church cannot provide space for the practice of these non-Christian religions on church property."

– HPBC statement explaining its last-minute cancellation of a Thanksgiving prayer service at its Quarries location, four months after Austin Area Interreligious Ministries had reserved the facility for the annual event

NAKED CITY

- **Austin's economy** continues to cruise along, according to a report by the Texas Workforce Commission. The Austin unemployment rate went from 3.7% in September to 3.3% in October – more than a full point below the national average of 4.4% and better than the state's overall rate of 3.9%. The number of nonagricultural jobs in the Austin area has increased 3.1% over the past year, to a total of 757,400. In other local economic news, the number of **foreclosures in Austin** rose 12.2% over the past quarter, according to research conducted by RealtyTrac. There were 3,063 foreclosures filed in the last quarter, or one for every 193 homes. That put Austin 44th out of the top 100 markets in terms of foreclosure activity and indicates the city is not immune to the subprime mortgage problems sweeping the country. Still, Austin is doing somewhat better than Dallas, San Antonio, and Houston and a lot better than, say, Stockton, Calif., the No. 1 market on the list. One out of every 31 homeowners there is looking for a new place to live. – Michael May
- The **Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center** at UT-Austin has embarked on developing a national **rating system for sustainable landscapes**. The Sustainable Sites Initiative (which includes many other partners) released its first report Nov. 1, with more than 200 recommendations for designing and building (see www.sustainablesites.org). The standards and guidelines finally adopted will lead to a uniform national standard, which does not currently exist; Sustainable Sites will produce a rating system by 2011. The U.S. Green

Building Council supports the project and plans to adopt its metrics into future versions of its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green Building Rating System.

– Katherine Gregor

- An advisory panel has recommended raising **UT tuition** next fall by 7.8% and by another 6.9% in 2009. The panel, which includes administrators, faculty, and students, says the increase is necessary to recruit new faculty and give 3% annual raises to staff. The proposal would increase fees by \$318 a semester next year and by \$303 the year after, bringing the average cost of a semester at UT to \$4,686. If the plan is approved, the cost of a UT education will have almost doubled since 2003, when the Texas Legislature agreed to let universities set their own tuition. The university blames the state for the increases, saying their costs have gone up much faster than the increase in state appropriations for higher education. Surprisingly, the increases have not sparked much opposition, perhaps because students whose families earn less than \$40,000 a year have been spared the rate hikes so far. – M.M.
- The Texas Public Policy Foundation recently released a study examining what characteristics **separate the good schools from the bad**. The study looks at 39 high-performing Texas schools and identifies traits they share, finding that effective schools offer incentives to attract more talented teachers in math and sciences, spend more on instruction and school leadership, minimize Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills test preparation during

continued on p.17

HEADLINES

- It's time once again for our annual celebration of the European conquest of the North American continent; not to mention the UT-Aggie game. **Happy Thanksgiving!**
- Testimony concluded in the **Responsible Growth for Northcross** lawsuit against the city of Austin and Lincoln Property Co. over the planned Northcross **Wal-Mart** – Judge Orinda Naranjo promised a decision in a few weeks. See p.26.
- Mayor Will Wynn announced a revised timeline for the search and **hiring of a new city manager**, now expected to conclude in January. See "Beside the Point," p.16.
- Houston state Rep. Rick Noriega won't have a clean shot at the Democratic nomination for **U.S. Senate** after all – Corpus Christi high school teacher **Ray McMurrey** announced Tuesday that he's throwing his hat in the ring as well. Although on the Democratic ballot, he says he's running as a "populist independent." "I feel like I'm the only real progressive in the race," McMurrey told the *Chronicle*.

forming Texas schools and identifies traits they share, finding that effective schools offer incentives to attract more talented teachers in math and sciences, spend more on instruction and school leadership, minimize Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills test preparation during



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the common threats of the 21st century: nuclear weapons and terrorism, climate change and poverty, genocide and disease. And I will send once more a message to those yearning faces beyond our shores that says: 'You matter to us. Your future is our future. And our moment is now.'" And he admirably echoed Martin Luther King's declaration in an equally desperate context: "I am running in this race because of what Dr. King called 'the fierce urgency of now.'"

I'd offer you a few more selections from my frenzied notes – except that right in the middle of the oration, the *Statesman's* sharp-eared Gardner Selby helpfully pointed out I could stop writing. Selby had heard Obama's Nov. 10 speech to the Iowa Democratic Party's Jefferson-Jackson Dinner (thank God for C-SPAN), and the Backyard version was, with a few minor revisions, pretty much a verbatim reiteration (for your own personal transcript, see www.barackobama.com/speeches). It's not a bad speech (although on Saturday it could have used a passing local reference to "the Party of Yarborough and Richards"), and from that catalog you can tell it hit the high notes while ringing the inevitable changes on Obama's PR-bland campaign slogan "Change We Can Believe In."

"I am running in this race because of what Dr. King called 'the fierce urgency of now.'" – Barack Obama

Why Wait?

Even setting aside the insider-forced hurry-up-and-wait timing, which has lent a premature air to the whole 2008 process, the primary campaigns now exist in a TV-fed headline bubble separate from ordinary human time. That was emphasized last week during the Las Vegas Democratic debate, when CNN's Wolf Blitzer repeatedly forced "gotcha" questions on candidates whom he stifled anytime they tried to explain a position. Blitzer tried hard to confine most of the discussion to the three designated front-runners – Clinton, Obama, and Edwards. In fairness, seven debaters on any subject is about five too many. New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson provided a nice oppo-slogan version of the headlines: "You know, it seems that John [Edwards] wants to start a class war; it seems that Barack wants to start a generational war. It seems that Sen. Clinton, with all due respect on her plan on Iraq, doesn't end the war. All I want to do is give peace a chance."

That's cute enough, and let's hope Richardson gets serious consideration for vice president, along with all the second string. But it was left to an audience member, the mother of an Iraq veteran, to ask the most acute question: "All of you on the stage either have formal political power or significant informal power and have the ability to stop the rush to war [with Iran]. Please tell me how you are going to show us your leadership on this issue *now* – so I can decide who I think would be the best leader for tomorrow." For the record, Joe Biden, Edwards, and Obama all answered the question more effectively than front-runner Clinton, who was reduced to defending her indefensible vote (even from a realpolitik perspective) designating the Iranian Revolutionary Guard a "terrorist organization." "We've seen this movie," commented Edwards. "We know how it turns out."

I'd truly like to believe that any one of these Democrats – even the Chief New Arkansan Triangulator Herself – would provide better presidential leadership than the current crop of utterly incompetent, armchair macho, militarist yahoos. But like that veteran's mother, I also believe we can't wait until January of 2009 – they need to demonstrate that leadership *now*. ■

BESIDE THE POINT Internal Pleading

BY WELLS DUNBAR

By now it's carved in granite tablets, conventional wisdom from the *Statesman's* Bat Cave to the *Chron's* executive washroom, that the hiring of Police Chief **Art Acevedo** set a gold standard for a deliberate, transparent hiring process. But did it?

After months of looking, remember who was chosen to lead the water utility trumpeted so proudly in a Friday afternoon press dump? Us neither. Who'll replace departing Parks & Rec Director **Warren Struss** – truly critical in a town as full of grass-lovers as Austin? And what the hell's holding the **Convention Center** together nowadays – a couple of coffee carts and Rudy Garza? Point is, the process that netted us Acevedo – held up as exemplary for all future "critical hires" – is looking more like a happy accident. And so last week, Mayor **Will Wynn** detailed the timeline for hiring **Austin's next city manager**. "What this memo answers, specifically, is the timing of the decision points," Wynn says. Even more specifically: It's a little tight.

The first thing council-watchers will notice is the process has been pushed back a few weeks, to the beginning of next year. Wynn said a 2007 decision would have required council to convene over the holidays, which the image-conscious city thinks might give the wrong appearance. "Really, it's less about us working through the holiday season than the perception – 'Hey, wait a minute – nobody's in town.'" So Jan. 3 or 4, like some after-the-fact Santa, search firm Arcus delivers "a big, fat three-ring binder" of potential candidates to council. And that's where the trouble starts.

From this point, council will consider separate candidate tracks – one for the "external" candidates Arcus found and another for the "internal" candidates already working for the city. The memo describes narrowing external candidates "to a manageable number of the most superior candidates (perhaps as few as three) for the first round of face-to-face interviews" while looking "forward to as many as three highly-qualified current City employees applying." So while the best of the external candidates may be limited to as few as three, all three rumored internal candidates (assistant city managers **Laura Huffman** and **Rudy Garza** and Austin Energy General Manager **Juan Garza**) advance up the bracket by default. "We wanna try to answer that question right off the bat, let our internal candidates know we like them, we value them, and they are all going to have a very fair shot," Wynn says. But is that too fair by far?

Also problematic for external applicants is the condensed nature of the search. After council makes its semifinal picks around Jan. 3, face-to-face interviews commence Jan. 8 – giving outsiders less than a week to arrange a visit. Assuming the top management talent that Arcus seeks to attract is already employed, this might make for some scheduling difficulties. (Also, at this point, the heretofore confidential applicants will become public knowledge – another complication that might make someone currently employed elsewhere [Vancouver, Gotham City, Atlantis] reconsider whether Austin's worth the time and trouble, i.e., local backlash.) Wynn says the schedule allows for "a little bit of open-field running," which is not discouraged; he anticipates "really serious candidates will likely be coming to town a time or two, probably quietly." After Jan. 9, it's down to two finalists. They'll be interviewed again Jan. 16; the city manager will then be announced the next day at council. (Seriously, don't dog-catcher candidates get more than two interviews?)

Internally, hot buzz of the machinery moving to support Huffman has made her the rumored front-runner. Sources (speaking only on background) have recounted the heavy-hitters lobbying on her behalf: state officials, prominent attorneys and power brokers, vaunted members of the permanent ruling political class who have benefited from the current structure at City Hall – and would presumably continue to flourish under Huffman. Another more hyperbolic take has it that Huffman's already a done deal, and Arcus is a convenient cover. Yet as Wynn noted to BTP, the search has done as much to raise Arcus' profile as it has anyone else's. For them to be seen as slackly rubber-stamping the top management position in one of the nation's most high-profile cities wouldn't be helpful – hence intimations of friction between the company and the mayor on how to proceed.

Ultimately, Wynn says giving internal candidates their own initial inside track should diminish campaigning, assuring staffers they'll "get the same structured one-on-one face time with the decision-making body, as will the chosen external candidates. ... For instance, if we were to say [we'll take] one internal, three external, just arbitrarily – well, guess what happens up on the third floor [city manager's offices] for the next six weeks?"

But would we rather brook a rough six weeks or six years of more-of-the-same management?

Drop a turkey-time line to BTP at wdunbar@austinchronicle.com.

class time, and allow for school choice through magnet programs. Also, the report defies conventional wisdom on small class size, recommending schools consolidate math and science classes, enabling them to hire a few higher paid, more experienced teachers rather than small classes with less experienced faculty. To view the full report, go to www.texaspolicy.com/pdf/2007-10-PB32-bestpractices-execsummary-js.pdf.
— Justin Ward

▶ Although the most recent Atlantic hurricane season spared the U.S. any major turmoil, Central America wasn't nearly as lucky. On Sept. 4, the Category 5 **Hurricane Felix** slammed into northern Nicaragua, killing about 100 people and causing immense destruction in communities within its reach. On Tuesday, Nov. 27, from 8 to 10pm, MonkeyWrench Books, 110 E. North Loop, will host a presentation on relief efforts for the region. Donations can also be sent to San José Catholic Church, 2435 Oak Crest Ave., Austin, 78704. The money goes to Amigos y Hermanos de Nicaragua, so please note the organization in the bottom left corner of all checks, and make checks out to the church. The Red Cross is also accepting donations for Hurricane Felix relief; contribute online at www.redcross.org/news/in/profiles/intl_profile_hurrfelix.html. On a related note, in late October and early November, the southern Mexican state of **Tabasco** suffered **flooding** and then landslides after excessive rain caused regional rivers to overflow. "More than half of Tabasco's two million population [evacuated] their homes at the height of the flooding," and tens of thousands of people are homeless, Agence France-Presse reports. To contribute to Red Cross Tabasco flooding relief efforts, see www.redcross.org/news/in/profiles/intl_profile_mexicanfloods.html.
— Cheryl Smith

BEYOND CITY LIMITS

▶ In a suit filed Monday, the Texas Civil Rights Project accused the **Texas Youth Commission** and 33 other defendants of denying a 16-year-old inmate his constitutional rights through a catch-22-like clause in TYC's Resocialization parole program. Inmate A.B. has been held at the McClellan County State Juvenile Correctional Facility Unit II since Nov. 2, 2006, but was appealing his charge of sexual assault. TYC told A.B. he would be paroled on Nov.

14. However, his counsel had advised him to not discuss the case while it was in appeal. Since he would not admit to the original charge, TYC refused to let him join the sex-offender treatment program necessary for his parole. The Texas Civil Rights Project claims the policy violates his Fifth Amendment right not to incriminate himself and his 14th Amendment right to rehabilitation and is seeking an injunction ending the policy and ensuring that TYC takes appeal status into account on parole decisions.

— Richard Whittaker

▶ Thanksgiving dinner is not a given — one in four of America's children do not know where their next meal will come from any day of the year, according to the study **Child Food Insecurity in the United States: 2003-2005**, released this week by America's Second Harvest — the Nation's Food Bank Network. The study reports 11 states and Washington, D.C., have child food-insecurity rates above 20%, with "food insecurity" defined as lacking enough food to meet basic needs. Texas and New Mexico top the list with a 24.3% insecurity rating. Moreover, most families going hungry are headed by working adults. "There are bigger and bigger gaps between paydays, thus putting more pressure on the emergency food system," says Michael Guerra, chief operating officer of Capital Area Food Bank, which partners with more than 370 agencies to feed families year-round. One-third of those fed are children, according to the local food-bank statistics. Another Austin group on a mission is **Operation Turkey**, begun in 2000 with Richard Bagdonas "delivering one turkey to one homeless person on Sixth Street," he recalls. This year, Operation Turkey will deliver dinner to 3,000 Austin residents and will fan out to 20 other cities. Bagdonas says his group never turns away volunteers. Also needed this year are clothes and coats, all sizes, so that fewer will go hungry and cold. For more info, see www.austinfoodbank.org and www.operationturkey.com.
— Patricia J. Ruland

▶ Many of us will arrive at our Thanksgiving feast via automobile, so let us reflect on the fact that as the world's largest carbon emitter, 33% of our CO₂ emissions comes from transportation-sector fossil-fuel guzzling, which also gives us the bountiful cornucopia of smog and ozone pollution garnishing most urban areas. Therefore, let us be thankful for two recent court cases

challenging the pathetic **federal fuel economy and emissions standards** that helped make it all possible. Last week a federal court struck down the lame Bush administration-imposed economy standards for light trucks and sport utility vehicles that didn't exceed 24 miles per gallon by 2010 and failed to regulate large trucks and SUVs at all. The law says mpg standards must be set to the maximum feasible level. The 2007 Energy Bill now being debated in Washington sets a minimum economy standard at 35 by 2020. Also, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger recently announced that his state will sue the Environmental Protection Agency for a waiver to implement the state's 2002 stricter-than-federal regulations to cut autos' greenhouse-gas emissions by up to 34% within 10 years. Eleven other states have adopted the standards; state Sen. Rodney Ellis and Rep. Mark Strama led thwarted attempts to get Texas on board.
— Daniel Mottola

▶ The **U.S. Supreme Court** has announced it will hear on Jan. 7 the oral argument in the case of two Kentucky inmates who argue the trichemical **lethal injection** method used by 36 states violates the constitutional ban on cruel and unusual punishment. The case, *Baze v. Rees*, has had the effect of sparking a temporary moratorium on executions across the country while the outcome is pending before the high court. *Baze v. Rees* does not challenge the constitutionality of the death penalty — only the specific formula used, which opponents say has the potential of causing great, unnecessary pain. The three chemicals work in sequence: The first is meant to render an inmate unconscious; the second, to paralyze the muscles; the third to cause cardiac arrest. At issue is the efficacy of the first, which may not cause unconsciousness. If that happens, then the second, causing paralysis, may in fact only mask severe pain — leaving the inmate aware of his condition but powerless to express the pain. Among the arguments raised by the Kentucky inmates is that a more humane alternative is readily available.
— Jordan Smith

▶ Immigration and Customs Enforcement's rationale for operating detention centers — that they keep families together — wore even thinner with this week's Associated Press report that a 28-year-old Honduran detainee housed at **T. Don Hutto Residential Center** in Taylor was deported without her 8-year-old child, who was left in the care of government officials.

Mother and child are now in Honduras, but the incident has raised the ire of activists who deplore jailing families. "This is outrageous because it is exactly what ICE says Hutto exists to prevent," said Scott Medlock, prisoners' rights attorney for the Texas Civil Rights Project. The AP quoted ICE spokesman Carl Rusnok as saying the woman had twice resisted deportation and was "potentially disruptive." Since documents related to lawsuits against Hutto have affirmed that separation is a routine form of discipline at T. Don Hutto, the nagging question remains: Was this woman deprived of her child to punish her? Parent-child separation is par for the course for ICE, with raids often leaving children stranded at day cares and schools, according to one study. Ironically, ICE had beat the system by convincing the state it should not be subject to child-care

licensing laws because parents would be in charge of their own children at Hutto. AP also reported that, if a complaint were filed that child care is being provided there, a state investigation could result.
— P.J.R.

▶ On a related note, a whopping 500 residents attended a public meeting Monday in **Burnet County**, most to express their opposition to county commissioners regarding a **proposed 500-bed private detention center** in the area. "Burnet County residents are concerned that the proposed jail will be operated by a Louisiana-based for-profit private prison corporation and that out-of-county prisoners will be shipped to the prison and that Burnet has taken steps to float revenue bonds to pay for the prison, which could endanger the county's future bond rating, without a public vote," according to Bob Libal, spokesman for those opposed to the facility. Libal is also concerned about track records of private prisons, which include human-rights abuses, lawsuits, higher rates of violence, and financial mismanagement. "Research shows that prison construction has no positive economic impact in communities. Counties that finance private prison construction have been held liable for abuses that take place in the prisons," Libal said. The commissioners met Wednesday, but at press time, there was no word on any action taken.
— P.J.R.



JOHN ANDERSON

▶ The historic **Auction Oaks at Republic Square** may soon receive tender loving care, thanks to the Austin Parks Foundation. The 150- to 200-year-old oak trees and their root systems are stressed; the proposed solution includes adding a shaded deck, a new perimeter with fencing, tree transplanting, and partial removal of a sidewalk and berm. Austin Parks Foundation Executive Director Charlie McCabe has presented the project to the Parks Board and the Downtown Commission. Ultimately, it will require approval from the city's Historic Landmark Commission.

— K.G.

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DEVELOPING STORIES

Park Once, Invest Twice

City parking garages could fund trails and transit – starting with Seaholm and Green

BY KATHERINE GREGOR

“This is a golden moment in the history of Downtown Austin,” asserted Council Member **Brewster McCracken** at last week’s **Downtown Austin Alliance** breakfast. McCracken was presenting his initiative for a new **municipal parking enterprise**, which would fund the construction of new city-owned parking garages. Intended to encourage Downtown workers, shoppers, diners, and visitors to park just once – then destination-hop by walking or transit – the parking garages would sport the ground-floor shops, restaurants, and streetscape amenities that keep the urban fabric oh so lively. Financial modeling shows that municipal garages (which would be associated with new developments, providing built-in demand) could be a big profit center for the city, said McCracken, generating significant long-term revenue streams. Under his proposal, the monies would be dedicated to a **Trails & Transit Enterprise Fund**. That could help solve the pressing problem of how to pay for Downtown’s much-desired green infrastructure – e.g., **Waller Creek** and **Shoal Creek** trail systems – and new transit – e.g., the modern **streetcar system** for which Mayor **Will Wynn** is championing a November 2008 voter referendum.

The concept of a municipal parking enterprise has been in research and development for months at the **City Council Land Use and Transportation Subcommittee**; members are McCracken, Betty Dunkerley, and Sheryl Cole. At the subcommittee’s December meeting, a formal proposal for the Trails & Transit Enterprise Fund is likely to be forwarded to the full council, where it could be taken up before the end of the year. Kick-starting the initiative would be two major redevelopment projects soon to go live Downtown. The first is **Seaholm**: the transformation of the 7.8-acre site of the decommissioned power plant (across Cesar Chavez from Lady Bird Lake) into a mixed-use wonderland of affluence. Detailed plans were unveiled before council in February. The project now is planned for 130,000 square feet of offices, 50,000 square feet of retail and restaurants, 60 upscale condos, and a 180-room luxury Seaholm Plaza Hotel – feathered with down duvets and Egyptian cotton linens, we’re reassured to know. (See www.seaholm.info/html/project.html). The meatiest developer-funded public benefit is the expensive adaptive reuse of the enormous 1950s Seaholm structure; other public bennies include green open space, extensive landscape architecture, and the infrastructure for a multimodal transportation hub. Council had raised the issue of affordable housing; if any results, it would be funded off-site in the future. Presentation of a Seaholm master development agreement to City Council is imminent; the binding agreement defines what will happen at the site and how the money will flow between the city of Austin and the developers. The Seaholm redevelopment team is led by **Southwest Strategies**

Group; lead principal John Rosato also was involved in Penn Field and the Mueller project. The architectural team includes Design Collective, Susman Tisdale Gayle, and Black + Vernooy. Compared to Mueller – another urban redevelopment project with a significant city of Austin investment – Seaholm has had a less inclusive and transparent master development agreement process. But Rosato, who has made four project presentations to Boards and Commissions in the past month, said, “I think people will be real pleased with what comes out of it.” A council vote is expected before year end. (An April 2007 update to the city’s **Seaholm district master plan** is at www.ci.austin.tx.us/downtown/0407/downloads/21-23_seaholm.pdf.) Redevelopment is expected to start next spring and to take a year and a half.

Transit advocate **Andrew Clements** has expressed concerns that site-development plans do not properly accommodate the rail component of a multimodal transportation hub – long intended for the site. Particularly at issue, he says, is a rail segment known as the “eastern curve,” necessary to allow future passenger rail easily to cross the river to Downtown. A schematic transportation diagram shows the Seaholm parking garage as a long, curved structure just west of the train tracks – to be used for a yet-to-be-funded commuter-rail service between Austin and San Antonio.

McCracken expects the parking structure at Seaholm to become the first project of the municipal parking enterprise. Projections show the garage yielding profits to the city of \$7.1 million over 30 years. By comparison, 30 years of property taxes from the entire Seaholm site are projected at \$7.2 million – tax revenues that the city is waiving as its investment in the project. (As public land to date, the Seaholm site has never generated property taxes.) Developers like the Seaholm team welcome a city-funded parking structure because it lessens the financial drag on their project, said McCracken. Structured parking now runs about \$15,000 per space to build, with below-grade parking running \$20,000 to \$25,000. Because the city can use 20- to 30-year financing structures and has access to tax-free municipal debt, it can get the garage built more economically than a private developer – thus generating juicier long-term profits.

DIGGING DEEP

The second imminent site for a municipal parking enterprise project is yet another outdated utility in the Seaholm district – the **Green Water Treatment Plant**. That prime 6-acre site,

between Seaholm and the 2nd Street District, also is being opened for private redevelopment; council will discuss the terms of its request for proposals at its Nov. 29 session. (May it include a new future-oriented site name – too many Greens in this town!) The city will provide roads and other infrastructure to create four new city blocks – heralded as the chunkiest redevelopment opportunity in Downtown history. One site will go to the new Downtown library. (Seems the land is too valuable for the Municipal Court.) An adjacent Austin Energy control center also may move, freeing up more land for boutiques.

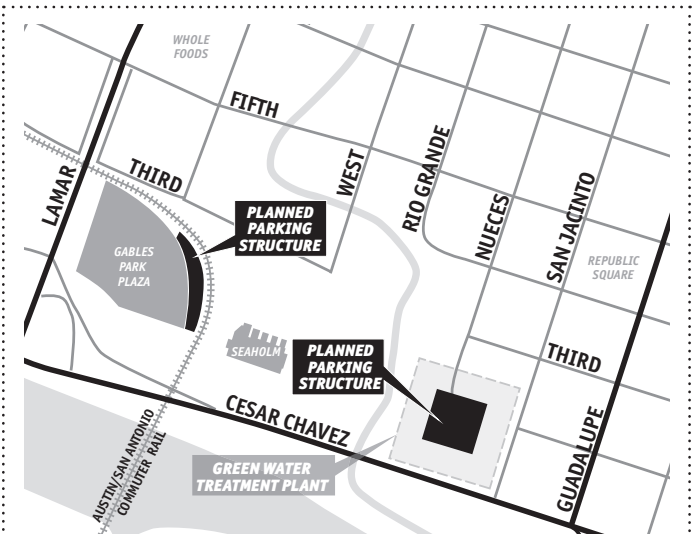
Removal of the Green Water Treatment Plant is scheduled to start in spring 2009 and to take a year; as part of remediation, said McCracken, the site will be dug out – leaving a pit perfect for a three-level parking structure underground. The city would pay to build it, upfront; the availability of parking would become a compelling value-add for each new project on the site, with users becoming parking subscribers. Plenty of

spaces would be available for day use by patrons of the retail and restaurants desired (yet more outlets to buy \$200 jeans and eat sushi); ample night parking would serve the whole southwest quadrant of Downtown. The guaranteed tenant base would radically reduce the city’s risk, said McCracken. Meanwhile, the city would be fulfilling its public responsibility to ensure that Downtown thrives, and “a permanent funding stream would be created for the future of trails and transit,” he explained. A similar parking enterprise has worked successfully to fund transit in Portland, Ore.

McCracken emphasized that city-built parking structures should exemplify public values, particularly the inclusion of ground-floor

retail and Great Streets pedestrian-oriented streetscapes. His presentation included slides of “what not to build” – a dead-ugly state of Texas parking garage with nothing on the ground floor – and a “let’s do this” image – shops and restaurants topped by several levels of parking, with a lively populated street scene. But when asked whether the Seaholm parking structure would exemplify these public values, he confessed he didn’t yet know.

Thanks to the urban-planning efforts of McCracken, Wynn, and the Downtown Austin Alliance, Austin’s revitalizing Downtown does indeed seem to be enjoying a golden moment. If the city parking enterprise succeeds, each Austinite can anticipate a personal golden moment, too – the sweet victory of snagging a great parking space Downtown. ■



A proposed municipal parking enterprise fund would pay for two new city-owned parking structures – one just west of the Seaholm Power Plant, near the two residential/retail towers of Gables Park Plaza, and the other beneath the existing Green Water Treatment Plant, slated to be dug out of the ground in 2009. The parking plan would tie in to transit and trail initiatives.

COMMUTER RAIL ON TRACK FOR TEST RUNS

Capital Metro will begin test runs of its commuter-rail line from Leander to Downtown this month, although actual passenger service is not scheduled to start until next fall. The agency’s first line, the **Red Line**, will use a 32-mile stretch of freight-rail track between Leander and Downtown. At last week’s **Urban Transportation Commission**, community involvement coordinator John-Michael Cortez discussed the test runs, as well as the agency’s efforts to improve safety along the track. Test runs of the **MetroRail** cars will begin this month, Cortez said. Each car is expected to run about 1,000 miles of track before it is put into use. Initial runs will be from Howard Lane to 47th Street and run between 7pm and 5am, including weekends. During initial testing, cars will travel no faster than 20 mph. The Red Line will use a 100-year-old freight-rail track – the same track that hauled pink granite to complete the construction of the Capitol. Eight stations will be located along the Red Line, which starts in Leander, with stops at Lakeline, Howard,

Burnet and North Lamar, Highland Mall, Martin Luther King, and Plaza Saltillo before ending at the Convention Center. Both the track and the crossings are being upgraded, particularly those crossings within neighborhoods, Cortez said. On that score, the only space that exists between the track and the back yards of homes are the easements and the privacy fences that most homeowners have built to block out noise. The installation of safety fencing begins in February and will go in high-foot-traffic areas. Quad gates – gates that close off access to the rail in four directions – will be placed at all crossings. Those gates will allow Capital Metro to obtain a waiver from federal safety administrators so that the train’s whistle will not need to sound at every intersection. “We’re walking up and down the alignment right now, looking carefully at those areas where we expect people to cross the tracks, even those places that are not established pedestrian crossings,” Cortez said. “We want to hear from folks



about places that might be potential crossings so we can evaluate them for privacy fencing.” Capital Metro also has launched an extensive outreach campaign focused on school children, with the first area of concentration on those schools closest to the rail line. Some 20 schools are located within a half-mile of the tracks. – Kimberly Reeves

Second Street Snafu Clarification

After repeated allegations from **Second Street District** retailers of mishandled utility billing by property managers **Urban Partners**, placing them in default of their leases (see "Second Street Retailers Take Stand Against Landlord," Nov. 2), the firm has said it is not trying to force stores out and remains committed to local shops in the district. "No one has been defaulted over chilled water bills," said Urban Partners President **Robert Bagwell**. "But there's a point at which you've got to pay rent."

Urban Partners manage the retail properties in the six-block development between Colorado and San Antonio for developers **AMLI Austin Retail LP**. Bagwell said problems had been caused by the newness of the development, and fluctuating bills were an unavoidable part of that process. Meters had been incorrectly installed and misread by contractors. After the city calculated the total bill for the district, Urban Partners split it by estimated use per tenant. The longer the meters are running, the more accurate those estimates can become. "It's going to be at our expense, more than the tenants," he said. "If anyone's going to eat chilled water, it's AMLI."

Bagwell denied that the landlords want to bring in big retailers and said a large number of smaller stores is essential to make the district attractive to shoppers. "We're big fans of local tenants, and we try to handpick the best operations we can find," he said, "but the truth is, not all of them are going to survive."

With more retail tenants signed up to move in over the next six months, "2008 will be a lot better," Bagwell said. He also noted that, rather than having one property manager based in Dallas running the project, there are now three staff members on-site, which should allow Urban Partners to be more responsive to tenants' concerns. "The key is to promote this district so these initial retailers don't go broke before the miracle happens," he said.

But for former tenant **April Lohse**, owner of DJ culture store **Gomi**, the miracle is already too late. She and husband John terminated their lease after receiving a default notice, saying AMLI and Urban Partners had been quicker to get rid of them than to negotiate a payment plan. "We just don't want to deal with them anymore," she said.

— Richard Whittaker

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TYC Shows Little Evidence of ‘Reform’ at State Schools

After the firings at the **Texas Youth Commission** over abuse scandals earlier this year, **Kenny Love** felt he was the kind of staff member the agency needed. A military veteran, former policeman, and two-time Texas Department of Corrections officer, when he applied in May to work at the **Crockett State School** in East Texas, he thought he could do some good. But with unpaid hours, hazardous working conditions, and reforms he calls cosmetic, he said he is one of many TYC staff considering quitting. “Right now I’m on medical leave,” he said, “but I don’t think I can go back to that mess.”

While Senate Bill 103, the TYC reform bill, was crafted to protect youth inmates, it was also supposed to create a safer working environment for staff. But the changes only provided the tools for reform. Five months later, TYC is massively understaffed, with almost a third of all posts empty. “We’re trying to get as many qualified people as possible into training,” said TYC’s director of public affairs, Jim Hurley. “We’re down in numbers considerably from where we want to be, and I can’t give you a hard and fast deadline. It’s going to take time.”

The Legislature ordered TYC to hire an additional 516 juvenile correctional officers, one for every 12 inmates, plus teaching and administrative staff. However, the money to hire them did not become available until Sept. 1, meaning TYC hadn’t even hired its four new recruiting officers until Nov. 1. As of Oct. 23, TYC had 3,984 employees but 2,024 unfilled positions, including 382 of those new juvenile correctional officers. Even when those positions are filled, there may not be enough staff. The **American Correctional Association**, a prison accreditation body, sets no standards for juvenile

inmate-officer ratios but works facility by facility and has yet to assess the reformed centers.

The shortfall means facilities are working staff longer and harder. “You have frustrated staff, tired staff. They dread coming out there,” said Love. Some, afraid of being fired if they complained, would call in sick. “You have people out there for whom this is their sole income, so they don’t make waves. The call-ins are their only way of striking back.” According to Love, this means some shifts at Crockett struggle on five or six corrections officers, less than half the number recommended. The new hires may not solve the problem, since they are just replacing staff who are on medical leave or quit. “It’s a revolving door,” Love said.

TYC employees are supposed to work a 40-hour week, with eight-hour shifts and five days on, two days off. But with staff levels so low, Love said, it’s not uncommon for officers to work five 12-hour shifts and only get one day off. Staff pulled a combined 116,890 hours of overtime in February, a figure that shrank to 30,487 for September, but there’s a catch. They weren’t being paid for all of it. In September alone, TYC paid out \$735,933 in overtime, equal to 55% of the normal annual sum. TYC spokesman Hurley said the cash wasn’t the issue, just further reform of the system. “This wasn’t about budget,” he said, “but the fact that they didn’t have any institutional controls in place to ensure that all the overtime being worked was necessary. Since we couldn’t ensure that, we suspended paying overtime, but this is almost surely a temporary measure.” He said that hours worked were

still being tracked, but for Love, that’s not enough. “That’s my money they’re earning interest on,” he said.

Hurley suggested that staff safety had measurably improved. Reported inmate-on-staff assaults dropped from 90 in March to 57 in May, and he put this down to the decision to remove misdemeanor offenders. “They were typically the kids that were getting into trouble time after time,” Hurley said. “They’re a rowdier bunch and more prone to disruption. Now we’re getting kids in for more serious crimes; they know there’s a disincentive for acting out.”

But Love said the TYC figures are inaccurate and the danger much higher, limiting staff’s ability to protect themselves or the vulnerable youths they are supposed to guard. Love said staff members feel reporting assaults internally is all but useless, so they don’t file the paperwork. With secure beds for only around 10% of all inmates, the youths know there is no room to deal with all the discipline cases. “They keep the worst crimes down there but let the light stuff go,” said Love. “The kids will be back before you’ve filed the report, laughing in your face, saying, ‘I told you they wouldn’t keep me.’”

– Richard Whittaker

ALLEGATIONS INVOLVING AXES, BOMBS FOLLOW RUMBO TO TYC

While the Texas Youth Commission is concerned about the quantity of new staff, there are also concerns about their quality. One major hire has already sparked great controversy. Early in October, **Brent Rumbo** became the new principal at **Crockett State School**, after passing the new background and fingerprint checks. However, just because Rumbo had no criminal record it did not mean he was free of serious allegations.

Prior to joining TYC, Rumbo was asked to resign as principal of **Navasota High School** by the Navasota Independent School District following a string of incidents, including claims he had chased students with an axe (a Grimes Co. grand jury no-billed him on that charge). But he was also hit with serious allegations when he was principal of **Winona High School** in East Texas. On May 17, 2006, a 17-year-old student blew most of his left hand off while tightening the cap on a 2-inch gunpowder-stuffed metal pipe bomb. At the time, Rumbo said the school did not know about the bomb and that explosives were not allowed on campus. However, members of the school community, speaking confidentially, said the school not only knew about the

bomb, but that it was part of a physics class. They said Rumbo was aware of these experiments and the construction of a homemade cannon in the same class.

TYC spokesman Jim Hurley confirmed that the agency knew about the allegations but stood by the hiring of Rumbo. “We reviewed them carefully, but there were no charges filed; he was not arrested or indicted. We cannot unhire him on the basis of unsubstantiated allegations,” Hurley said.

But even without a criminal record, the **Texas Civil Rights Project** was concerned about whether Rumbo was qualified to be principal. The post requires five years of classroom teaching experience, and Rumbo counted four years of teaching track as a graduate assistant in college toward that total in his application. “We don’t think that would qualify as classroom teaching experience under TYC’s own policies,” said project attorney Scott Medlock. He said he was concerned that the claims from Rumbo’s time at Navasota and Winona had been insufficiently investigated, adding, “These are allegations that TYC has to take seriously, and they seemed to have just taken Rumbo’s word for it.”

– R.W.



New Orleans Tax Sale.com

The City of New Orleans will hold its first Internet-based tax sale at www.neworleansstaxsale.com beginning at 8am on Nov. 26.

The internet tax sale method allows purchasers from anywhere the opportunity to view property information (location, values, tax history, etc.), satellite imagery of the tax sale eligible properties, as well as all online registration and purchasing of parcels from any computer station.

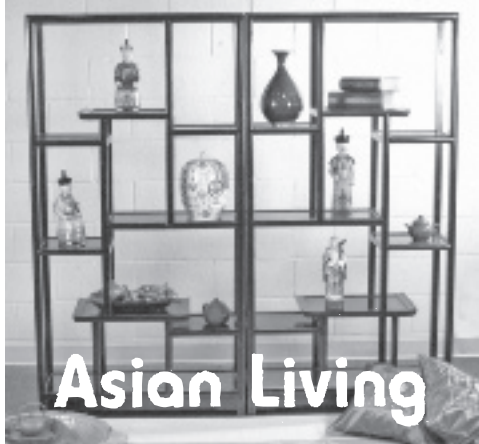
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Messy Investigation of a Mess

Did Austin Police Sgt. **Michael Olsen** use excessive force, in violation of department policy, when he shot and killed 25-year-old **Kevin Brown** in the early morning hours of June 3? That is among the questions an administrative investigation conducted by **Internal Affairs** detectives is expected to answer – but according to a Nov. 13 memo from Police Monitor **Cliff Brown** to City Manager **Toby Futrell**, IA has apparently decided the answer to that crucial question remains “inconclusive.” As such, Brown suggested an outside review of the IA inquiry might be in order. In an e-mail response Futrell concurred, but what might have been an ordinary and uneventful recommendation has sparked the ire of the **Austin Police Association** (and Olsen’s attorney **Jason Nassour**), which argues Brown’s memo disclosed investigative information protected by civil-service law and, moreover, that Brown had no authority to request a review before the case was heard by the **Citizen Review Panel**. In short, it appears the investigation into the Brown shooting could likely become what no one wanted: a political brawl that threatens to undermine both public and police confidence in the outcome.

“What we’ve said from day one is let the process work,” APA President **George Vanderhule** said. “Now [the city] has totally politicized everything.” Brown pulled away and ran from Olsen, apparently to avoid being searched for a weapon, in the parking lot of the now-defunct Chester’s Night Club, in the early morning hours of June 3, after a security guard tipped Olsen that Brown might be packing. Brown ran, hopped a fence, followed a path around the perimeter of a neighboring apartment complex, and wound up in a courtyard, where Olsen intercepted him. Olsen says Brown was fidgeting with his waistband (presumably where he’d stashed the gun) and that he hollered for Brown to show his hands. Brown didn’t comply, Olsen said in a statement to investigators, so he fired his weapon, striking Brown in the back. Brown fell facedown on the grass. Olsen said it appeared Brown was still tugging at his waistband, so Olsen fired again. Brown died. That, in a nutshell, is what happened in the early morning hours of June 3. Why it happened and, perhaps more importantly, whether Olsen’s show of force was justified as a matter of APD policy is another story – one that, apparently, APD’s IA investigators can’t quite figure out. In his memo to Futrell, Brown wrote that in a “verbal briefing” last week “concerning the conclusion” of the IA investigation, he was advised that IA “will recommend to [APD Chief **Art Acevedo**] a finding that ... Olsen’s tactics leading to the encounter did violate APD policy” but that investigators “plan to recommend a finding of ‘inconclusive’” as to whether Olsen’s decision to fire at Brown was a justified use of force. Based on these “facts and circumstances,” Brown wrote, it is his “belief that an independent review of these findings is in the best interest of the community.”

“I believe that an independent review will provide a measure of transparency that will increase the community’s trust and confidence” in APD, he wrote. And that is what he recommended Futrell should do – “as provided” in the city’s employment contract with the police union, he wrote.

Futrell concurred, “authorizing an independent review” of the “thoroughness and appropriateness of [IA’s] investigatory

techniques, analysis and conclusions regarding the Kevin Brown shooting,” she wrote in an e-mail response. Futrell also wrote that consultants with **Kroll**, which has extensive experience with “police reform matters” (including acting as independent monitor for the Los Angeles and Detroit police departments), would lead the review, which she expected would be on her desk, complete, by Nov. 27 – only three days shy of the 180-day deadline Acevedo has under state law to decide whether Olsen should face any discipline, including, notably, whether he should lose his job.

The problem with Futrell’s decision, says Vanderhule, is that it violates the **police meet-and-confer employment agreement**, signed back in 2004. That agreement lays out the powers of the police monitor’s office and the procedures related to outside investigations – notably, he said, the contract does not allow the monitor to request an outside review independently. That power is reserved for the police chief, the city manager, and, importantly, for the seven-member Citizen Review Panel, which reviews the IA investigation before members vote either to accept the IA conclusions and to recommend discipline to the police chief or to recommend an outside investigation or review. (The panel can also vote to do nothing.) In the Olsen case, Vanderhule says the city has completely trampled the police contract, first in bypassing the CRP – slated to review the case on Nov. 15, only two days after Brown penned his memo to Futrell – and, second, by failing to redact Brown’s memo, removing the information related to the contents of the IA investigation, which are protected from public disclosure unless and until Acevedo imposes discipline.

“It’s a meet-and-confer agreement,” Vanderhule said. “We have to meet [with the city], confer, and we have to agree to the provisions in that contract. That’s why it’s not called rock, paper, scissors” – that is, it isn’t an agreement the city can make up as it goes along.



Police Monitor Cliff Brown

City spokesman **Gene Acuña** argues the city did no such thing. There isn’t anything in the contract saying the police monitor can or can’t request such a review – but that is meaningless, he said, because ultimately it was Futrell who authorized the review, which is well within the scope of the contract. “I think the thing to point out is that Brown simply requested it, but it was Futrell that authorized this.”

Brown insists there is “not a question” here that he is allowed to recommend an outside review – and he says he believes it is in the best interest of the community – police included – to do so now, before the 180-day deadline passes. “The bottom line is that I don’t do something willy-nilly, without legal advice,” Brown says. (Acevedo could ask Texas Attorney General **Greg Abbott** for a deadline extension, which was common practice under former Chief Stan Knee and which would have allowed the process to unfold naturally, Vanderhule argues. Brown contends the extension is available only when a criminal inquiry is ongoing, and as such, it wasn’t available in this case.) Still, Vanderhule says the language of Brown’s memo, and of Futrell’s response, makes it clear that Brown is the impetus for the investigation, and that is outside the scope of his power. The APA’s board of directors agrees and has voted unanimously to file a grievance with the city, seeking redress for the allegedly extra-contractual action. The failure to redact Brown’s memo was a mistake, according to the city. But while it may seem at first a minor slip, it is one that has become a flash point and that threatens to derail what

has been, to date, the most civil investigation into a police shooting in recent memory – if ever. “That should never have happened,” Brown laments. “And we likely wouldn’t be having this conversation otherwise.” Still, he says he thinks that, ultimately, “to have any credibility in oversight or in the Police Department,” we have to “vet this thing fully.” Ultimately, however, the decision about what will happen to Olsen – and whether he was justified in shooting Brown or not – is in Chief Acevedo’s hands.

– Jordan Smith

AG’s Office Warned Against Filing ‘Punitive’ Appeals

The **Texas Attorney General’s Office**, as well as other public and private counsel, are now on notice to forego filing “unwarranted” and “punitive” appeals that cause economic duress for plaintiffs, according to an opinion handed down on Nov. 6 by the **5th Circuit Court of Appeals**. The opinion involves a pending **whistle-blower lawsuit** against **Gary Grief** and the **Texas Lottery Commission**, for which the AG’s office is serving as the defendants’ co-counsel.

In May 2006, **Shelton Charles**, a former Texas Lottery systems analyst, sued Grief and the commission, claiming they retaliated against him for alerting lawmakers about data-recovery problems at the agency. According to the complaint, Grief fired Charles two days after he sent an e-mail to state legislators about serious problems associated with the commis-

sion’s Disaster Recovery/Business Resumption Site, which was designed to house backup lottery data but which had never been operational, despite an investment of millions of dollars in commission funds.

Grief, now deputy executive director of the commission, moved for a summary judgment in the suit. When the **U.S. District Court** dismissed his motion – calling the defendants’ arguments for summary judgment “odd” and warning that the 5th Circuit Court itself had held there is no matter more important than bringing government malfeasance to light – Grief appealed, which served to delay the lawsuit’s progression through the legal system. The 5th Circuit decision means both sides may now prepare for trial on the original petition.

But the 5th Circuit not only denied Grief’s appeal; they also wrote that the AG’s office should have known better than to even file such an appeal, knowing that a district judge had affirmed that enough factual dispute existed for the case to move to trial. For that misstep, the justices issued a strident warning to private and public attorneys to be “chary to take appeals [in such cases], lest they incur penalties, sanctions, damages for ... frivolous appeals, or worse.”

“I haven’t seen such language in 25 years of handling such cases,” said Charles’ attorney Derek Howard of the opinion, which is scathingly articulate in its condemnation of the appeal. Ever since the appeal was filed, Howard has maintained that it was probably an attempt to wear down Charles financially. The justices agreed: “Considering the usual disparity in the financial conditions of the parties,” the opinion states, “cavalierly taking such an appeal smacks of economic duress” and is “unconscionable.”

– Patricia J. Ruland



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THIRSTY? HERE, SUCK ON MY SHOE.

Nordstrom department stores have agreed to pull from store shelves a nifty new **flip-flop flask** that alcohol-prevention advocates say could help underage drinkers hide their booze, reports Boston University School of Public Health's **Join Together**.

Apparently communications director **Pete Schulberg** of the **Oregon Partnership**, a nonprofit drug/alcohol awareness and prevention group, was strolling through a Portland, Ore., Nordstrom store not long ago when he spied the **Reef** brand **Dram sandal** – a flip-flop with a flask, funnel, and plastic key fitted in the heel – in the department store's famed shoe department. Schulberg was not amused – not, apparently, at the idea of sucking back a sip from a shoe but at the idea that the hidden flask could be perfect for teens wishing to hide their booze from adults. He ticked off a letter to Nordstrom Prez **Erik B. Nordstrom**, JT reports, describing the sandal as a possible scourge supporter: "We believe that if we are to make inroads into the crisis that is underage drinking, products such as the Reef flip-flops should not be sold under the Nordstrom banner and in Nordstrom stores," Schulberg wrote. In response, Erik B. left a voice message for Schulberg, agreeing to pull the flip-flop from store shelves – the product, he said, is "ridiculous." "Our goal is to have great fashion," Nordstrom spokesman **Michael Boyd** told JT, and that doesn't include that "gimmicky" flip-flop, which he said simply "doesn't fit with our merchandising mix."

– Jordan Smith
Posted Monday, Nov. 19.

HAPPENINGS

For more events, see Community Listings, p.72.

THURSDAY 22

LBJ ON TURKEY DAY Gander at an animatronic LBJ, talk to a Sen. Johnson impersonator in the new Bills, Bills exhibit, or learn all about the late, great Lady Bird at the **LBJ Library and Museum**. 9am-5pm. 2313 Red River. www.lbjlib.utexas.edu.

THANKSGIVING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES **Austin's Meals on Wheels and More** needs help preparing and delivering meals to Austin's housebound elderly and disabled. Training begins 10:30am; delivery starts at 10:45am. 3227 E. Fifth, 476-6325 x105. **Operation Turkey** seeks volunteers to help cook, package, and deliver meals, clothing, and toiletries to Austin's homeless. For details and registration, see www.operationturkey.com or call 590-6100.

FRIDAY 23

CHANGE 4 CHANGE FUNDATION GRANT DEADLINE The *Fundation* grant, sponsored by PBS' *Super Pal Universe*, goes to the area nonprofit that best embodies creativity, social responsibility, and arts empowerment. See www.superpaluniverse.com for details. Deadline: Today.

SUNDAY 25

HECHO A MANO FESTIVAL & ARTISTS MARKET features a kids theatre performance (2pm; adults \$5; kids \$3), a panel discussion (The Undocumented Worker: To Educate or Deny), and a screening of the documentary short "A Tejano Son of Texas," about Civil War Texas Ranger Policarpo Rodriguez. 11am-4pm. Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River St., 478-6222. www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/macc_index.htm.

LAST SUNDAY this month focuses on immigration issues: speakers from the Workers Defense Project, a screening of "Hutto: America's Family Prison," plus Eliza Gilkyson and Diasporic. 6:30-8:30pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress, 471-1990. \$8 suggested donation. www.workersdefense.org. www.thirdcoastactivist.org/lastsunday.html.

RAMON MONCIVAIS discusses and signs his book, *Beneath the Shadow of the Capitol*, about discrimination against Hispanics in the Thirties, Forties, and Fifties. 11am-4pm. Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River St.

TUESDAY 27

HEALTH CARE FOR ALL TEXAS is Austin's first coalition working toward single-payer universal health care for all. Join in their efforts at this meeting. 7:30-8:30pm. Carver Library, 1161 Angelina.

HURRICANE RELIEF FOR NICARAGUAN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES features a presentation on the relief efforts in Nicaragua since it was hit on Sept. 4 with a Category 5 hurricane. All donations will help buy food and housing materials, replace livestock, and repair water systems. See p.17 for more. 8pm. MonkeyWrench Books, 110 E. North Loop.

WEDNESDAY 28

CHARTER REVISION COMMITTEE MEETING explores single-member districting options for Austin. 5-7:30pm. Brown Recreation Center, 7500 Blessing Ave., 974-7593. Free. www.ci.austin.tx.us/charter.

CITY COUNCIL MEET AND GREET Austin's League of Women Voters hosts this meet and greet with county commissioners and City Council members and presents the league's new Observer Corps, which will monitor and report on the actions of county and city officials. Call for info, and to RSVP 5:30-7:30pm. 451-6710. \$25.

THURSDAY 29

HOUSING THAT WORKS, FOR PEOPLE & THE PLANET American YouthWorks, YouthBuild, Habitat for Humanity, and AmeriCorps host this two-day conference on green building, sustainable energy policies, material selection, financing, code requirements, and more. Thu.-Fri., Nov. 29-30. Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River, 236-6155. \$100-175. www.americanyouthworks.org/Conference_Details.htm.

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Tuesday, Nov 27, 6pm
**Nirvana DVD
watchingparty!** *Mohawk*
Mohawk's Grizzly Bar, 912 Red River, mohawkaustin.com
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in stores 11/20. Great happy hour prices: \$1 longnecks, \$2 wells!



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THE HIGHTOWER REPORT

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

THE ALL-NATURAL FLIMFLAM

Is it true that all the CEOs and lawyers at big food corporations get their job training from flimflam artists at carnival sideshows?

These executives are always trying to twist language, pervert meaning, and distort laws in various crass, commercial efforts to flimflam us consumers. The latest example is a push by food giants to mess with something as basic as "natural" chicken. Most of us would think any bird with that label has been raised in – well, a natural environment on a diet of such natural feedstuffs as grain, meal, and bugs. We would also assume the bird has not been doused, injected, or otherwise juiced up with chemical additives or other ingredients.

We would be wrong. For example, Tyson Foods Inc., the biggest chicken wrangler in the land, pumps up its "all-natural" birds with water, salt, preservatives, and other ingredients. Indeed, up to 15% of the retail weight of Tyson's all-natural cluckers is said to be derived from such additives – yet its corporate honchos are telling food regulators in Washington that Tyson's product is still pure enough to be labeled "all-natural."

Tyson is not the only trickster. Lawyers from Sara Lee Corp. have recently petitioned the Food and Drug Administration to let it use the "natural" label on its Hillshire Farm brand of meats, even though the meats have had a chemical preservative called sodium lactate added to them. Yes, this chemical is derived from a plant, but its appearance in the meat is not exactly a natural occurrence – it's an industrial process.

Shouldn't the term "natural" be applied only to food products that are, you know – natural? To stay informed about the flimflammers, connect with the consumer watchdog group, Center for Science in the Public Interest: 202/332-9110.

BUSH'S DEEPEST HEALTH-CARE SHAME

It's well known that the Bushites don't much care that the number of Americans without health coverage has zoomed upward by 7 million since they've been in charge, including an increase of 600,000 children last year alone. After all, says George W., all Americans have access to health care, since "you just go to an emergency room."

But here's a bit of Bushite health-care callousness that is not generally known, and it might both surprise and appall you: The number of uninsured veterans has jumped dramatically on the Bush watch, with nearly 2 million vets now without health coverage. Indeed, the number of uncovered veterans has risen twice as fast as the number of uninsured in the general population, according to a report in the *American Journal of Public Health*.

But wait, you say – isn't Bush the guy who's always saying, "Support the troops, support the troops?" Surely there must be some mistake. He wouldn't turn his back on the troops once they come home, especially not sick and wounded vets – would he?

Sadly, appallingly – yes, he would. And this is not an oversight on his part, either, for his administration has actively pushed policies to limit the number of vets eligible for coverage. In 2002, even as he was revving up the war machine to send our troops into Iraq, Bush administrators at the Department of Veterans Affairs quietly stopped marketing health coverage to veterans, citing the need to constrain spending. A year later, they went further, actually cutting off access to future vets who earn more than about \$30,000 a year. The result is that most of today's uninsured veterans are lower-middle-income workers who are too poor to afford private policies but not poor enough to qualify for free health care.

This is beyond shameful. No Bushite should be allowed ever again to mouth the words, "Support our troops."

For more information on Jim Hightower's work – and to subscribe to his award-winning monthly newsletter, The Hightower Lowdown – visit www.jimhightower.com.

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Wal-Mart Case Could Take Several Weeks to Decide

After an eye-glazing three days of discussions about the meaning of city legal codes, methods of tree preservation, traf-fic-impact analyses, and especially flood-drainage engineering, defense attorney **Casey Dobson** began his closing arguments by saying, “In about half an hour ... I’m going to go have a beer, and it’s not gonna be with a drainage engineer.”

So there was at least one thing everyone at the **Northcross/Wal-Mart** trial (except perhaps the drainage engineers who testified) could agree on.

What the two sides disagreed on was the city of Austin staff’s interpretation of legal development code. The opposing arguments, boiled down to the bones:

Responsible Growth for Northcross, an activist group attempting to stop **Lincoln Property Co.**’s plans to put a Wal-Mart Supercenter on the former Northcross Mall location, focused on legal code language centered around phrases such as “will” and “shall” – words that RG4N says limit the amount of flex-ibility staff has in inter-pretations and prove that staff didn’t carry out due diligence when it approved Lincoln’s site plan in 2006. Travis Co. District Judge **Orlinda Naranjo** should void the entire site plans, RG4N attor-neys argued – which would force new plans to be submitted under the city’s **Big Box Ordinance**, a law passed earlier this year requiring that pro-posed stores over a certain size be subject to City Council hearings.

The city – represented by Dobson and firm **Scott, Douglass & McConnico**, to the tune of almost half a million dollars – and Lincoln argued that RG4N wanted staff to interpret city code with a “bloodless literalism” not required by law, which would deprive the city’s professionals of the discretion neces-sary to make reasonable judgments. Dobson also argued that case law dictates that Naranjo keep her decision very limited in scope, with a proper amount of deference given to the com-petence of city staff. RG4N, he claimed, was asking Naranjo to decide which set of experts was superior – theirs or the city’s. “The court should not substitute its own judgment for the city’s,” Dobson said, unless the city’s conduct was “so out of bounds that it acted arbitrarily and capriciously.” Dobson also

argued against RG4N’s requested remedy, should it prevail. Rather than completely toss out a site plan for a few errors, he said, the city usually allows mistakes to be corrected. “Site-plan reviews are not a game of ‘gotcha,’ to deny applica-tions,” Dobson said.

RG4N’s suit rests on four claims: Lincoln’s site plan vi-o-lates a plat note protecting Shoal Creek, city staff failed to review properly the site plan for traffic and public-safety impacts, Wal-Mart’s garden center is a “conditional use” improperly approved by city staff, and the plan violates the city’s **Protected Tree Ordinance**.

An enormous amount of testimony focused on floodwater drainage across the Northcross property onto Northcross Drive, which under current conditions will be under 6 inches of water in a 100-year flood event. RG4N lawyer **Doug Young** pointed

BRET BROOKSHIRE



to ordinance language stating that, in a new development, “Rainfall runoff shall be held to the amount existing at undeveloped status by use of ponding or other approved methods.” Lincoln’s site plan does not provide a required dedicated easement adequate to convey this 100-year floodwa-ter, Young said. Lincoln attorney **Bruce Scrafford** of Armbrust & Brown countered on two points. One, this is not a new develop-ment; it’s a redevelop-

ment, so his client is not obligated to build such an easement (Young fired back that the law makes no exceptions for rede-velopment). Secondly, he got RG4N witness Lauren Ross – drainage engineer for the city of Sunset Valley and a frequent player in Austin water fights – to admit that, overall, Lincoln’s site plan would have less impervious cover than the old Northcross, more water-quality controls (the site currently has none, she said), will probably send less pollution into Shoal Creek than it currently does, and will have more storm-water retention. The city’s lawyers claim that by “undeveloped sta-tus,” the law’s authors meant the condition at the time a developer files an application, not a reversion to the condi-tions back when the block was green pasture. Austin drainage engineer Benny Ho added in other testimony (italics ours): “The Texas Water Codes specifically state that if there is exist-ing inundation, that the proposed development cannot pro-

duce *additional* adverse impact downstream.” And, “city codes specifically call for no *increased* inundation in the event that we approve a site plan.”

On traffic questions, RG4N co-counsel **Brad Rockwell** asked whether George Zapalac, the development services manager at the city’s **Watershed Protection and Development Review Department**, had considered the pub-lic-safety effect those cars would have when combined with those floodwaters or if he considered the health or climate-change effects of the extra pollution. No, Zapalac replied, because those types of considerations are not part of a traffic-impact analysis. While there may be other city staff who work on those problems, they are not within the scope of his job or the scope of a traffic-impact study, he said.

RG4N noted that the “accessory use” status sought by Wal-Mart for the garden center requires that it take up no more than 10% of the supercenter’s square footage – otherwise, Wal-Mart must seek a “conditional use” permit, which would trigger public hearings. RG4N’s Paige Hill said she measured garden centers at the Ben White and Four Points Wal-Marts and found them to be well over the 10% line, which led Rockwell to assert that Wal-Mart would simply do the same at Northcross. Assistant City Manager **Laura Huffman**’s response: If the garden center violates city code, there is a process in place to file a complaint and seek a remedy.

On the final point of the city’s Tree Ordinance, RG4N pointed to language requiring at least the consideration of possible design alternatives that might save 11 trees that fall into the “protected” class (a circumference of 60 inches or greater), and Rockwell pointed to deposition testimony by city environ-mental review specialist Betty Lambricht that she had never pressed for such a redesign. Lambricht replied, “I am not reviewing in a vacuum” and must evaluate multiple factors in a site plan. She said she was impressed that the plan reduc-es impervious cover from 95% to 87% and that Lincoln will plant a wider variety of new trees other than the existing live oaks. “More diversity is good for the urban forest,” Lambricht said. “A monoculture is not good. You get a case of oak wilt, and all the trees are gone.”

Rockwell cited city provisions requiring tree-preservation efforts to retain the “existing natural character” of a develop-ment site. But Lambricht disagreed with Rockwell’s definition of that phrase: “We looked at the site overall, its existing char-acter,” she said. “It’s a mall. The trees are landscape trees planted in the Seventies,” not naturally occurring ones.

That flummoxed Rockwell. “Northcross has no natural char-acter?” he asked. No, she replied. “Mature live oaks are not natural?” he continued. “To me, ‘natural’ is ‘undeveloped,’” Lambricht said. “So the mall is natural, and trees are not?” asked an amazed Rockwell.

Naranjo said that due to the complexity of the case and the upcoming holidays, she would need plenty of time to review testimony and evidence and warned not to expect a decision until sometime in mid-December.

– Lee Nichols

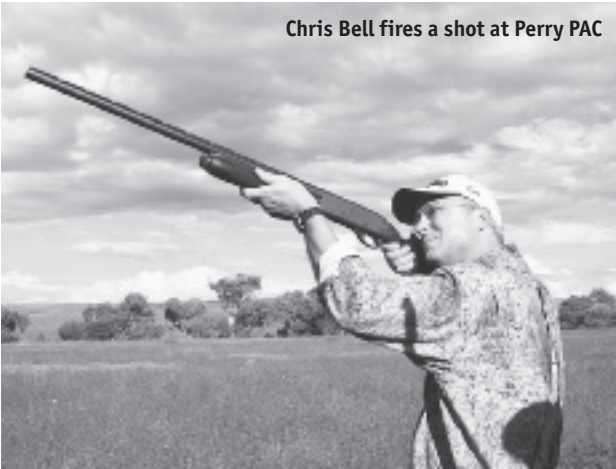
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Former Democratic gubernatorial candidate **Chris Bell** is suing Gov. **Rick Perry**’s political action committee, **Texans for Rick Perry**, and the Republican Governors Association for violating state campaign finance laws during the November 2006 election. Filing suit in Travis Co. District Court last Thursday, the former Houston congressman and his campaign committee, Clean Government Advocates for Chris Bell, claimed Perry and the RGA failed to disclose the list of con-tributors behind \$1 million in donations, including major right-wing donor Bob Perry. “This was Rick Perry’s single largest campaign contribution and the RGA’s biggest single disburse-ment in that same period,” said Bell’s attorney Buck Wood. “I don’t believe in coincidences.”

As part of its January semiannual campaign filing with the **Texas Ethics Commission**, Texans for Rick Perry reported two checks for \$500,000 from the Republican Governors Association PAC, dated Oct. 27 and Nov. 2. However, Wood said, the RGA does not qualify as a PAC under Texas law. A Texas campaign like Perry’s can take out-of-state committee cash if it provides the Ethics Commission with either a com-

plete list of all donations more than \$100 or a Federal Election Commission account number. According to Wood, the RGA provided the Perry campaign with an incomplete list of donors, but the campaign failed to pass this information to the Texas Ethics Commission. Instead, the filing included an old FEC account number, formerly held by the RGA but inactive since 2002. “Where they got that number, we’re not exactly sure,” said Wood, who voiced concerns about what he called misleading information being provided by Perry’s campaign to the TEC. “If they just put down Republican Governors Association, no PAC and no FEC number, alarm bells would have gone off immediately,” he said.

Under the Texas election code, Bell could receive \$2 million from each party, plus costs, if he prevails in the lawsuit. In a prepared statement, RGA communications director Chris Schrimpf called the lawsuit frivolous and called Bell “a failed candidate ... using a lawsuit to keep his name in the head-lines.” Texans for Rick Perry released a statement accusing Bell of “sour grapes” after he did not receive a state lobbying contract from Perry’s office earlier in the year. But Wood reject-



ed their criticism of his client and said: “When you start talk-ing about someone’s motivation for filing a lawsuit, you know you’re in trouble. I would have thought that they would have been saying there was no violation.”

– Richard Whittaker



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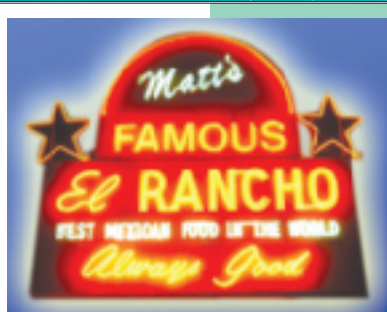


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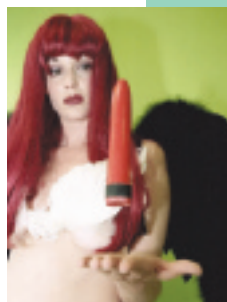


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Inhuman Resources

City HR employees rebel over director's actions, city response

BY WELLS DUNBAR

The bureaucratic face of the city's Human Resources Department – charged with managing the city's hiring and firing and monitoring its treatment of employees, among other matters – is in the ordinary course of events, fairly unremarkable, even boring. HR's mission statement – “To help the City of Austin departments attract, motivate, and develop qualified, diverse and productive employees” – sounds cheerful enough, even vaguely progressive. But in recent months, rather than efficiently fulfilling that mission, the department has been troubled by serious employee allegations of job discrimination, persistent favoritism, and the reckless disclosure of employees' health information and related matters – the latter actions potentially in violation of federal law.

In early November, after several months of turmoil and two investigations (one external, one internal), City Manager Toby Futrell and Chief of Staff Kristen Vassallo told the *Chronicle* that, despite some persisting bruised feelings, the administration has done what is necessary to resolve the matter. Futrell said she's satisfied with the results of her internal review: “I know that it has not brought closure for some individuals; I know not everyone has heard the answer they wanted to hear, but I feel very comfortable that we have looked long and hard at this. I've not seen this level of review occur on something like this ever. We take it very seriously.” As a result, a Human Resources assistant director has been officially reprimanded and is considering a change of position.

At least some employees remain unsatisfied. Following the external investigation completed earlier this year, union representative Carol Guthrie of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees wrote the City Council, “As we suspected, the employees' concerns were swept under the rug.” Asked about Futrell's subsequent review, Guthrie concluded, “I think there are going to be numerous problems moving forward as long as Toby stands up and continues to say that people's medical information was not released.”

A Ray of Sun

The problems first surfaced publicly in late May, when an anonymous e-mail was sent to the

city managers and City Council members. The return address was “ray_ofsunfun@yahoo.com,” and the letter was signed only “44 Human Resources Professionals with the City Of Austin.” There were no identifying details, and it remains unclear whether it was in fact a large group letter or instead sent by one or a few HR employees attempting to speak for dozens of others. The letter complained of neglect of Human Resources employees by city administrators, concerning compensation and related matters, and pointed specifically to HR Department Director Cathy Rodgers and Assistant Director Sylvia Gonzalez as “not trustworthy.” The authors said they were writing because they believed they had no other forum for their concerns: “When Toby [Futrell] attended the Human Resources Professional Day, we would have liked to voice our concerns there, but with Sylvia and Cathy on hand it would have been rather uncomfortable. We strongly urge one of you to hear our voices and take immediate action.”

The letter's complaints about Gonzalez were more specific and more serious: “[T]here is a level of distrust and lack of professionalism from Sylvia Gonzalez. We implore you to randomly speak with the Human Resources staff if not everyone regarding Ms. Gonzalez' behavior. We have witnessed Ms. Gonzalez promoting her friends that don't have the skills for jobs, preventing someone from getting a job, or discriminating against African American staff, divulging private information regarding other employees and making rude comments about others.”

More specific complaints about Gonzalez surfaced the following month. On June 5 and 14, council members and City Manager Futrell received letters from a departmental HR manager and an HR coordinator, charging that Gonzalez had violated their rights under the Americans With Disabilities Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act, and other disability-discrimination laws. Noting that an employee's medical conditions or circumstances are legally confidential and only to be communicated on a need-to-know basis, the similarly worded letters said Gonzalez had “disclosed [our] medical information to someone who did not fit either of the above categories. That is truly a breach of confidentiality.”

coordinator and HR manager that Gonzalez had revealed their personal information to him.

“44 Human Resources Professionals with the City Of Austin” is the signature on an anonymous e-mail sent to the City Council and the city manager accusing Gonzalez and HR Department Director Cathy Rodgers of being “not trustworthy,” of specific instances of misconduct, and of racial discrimination in hiring and promotions. — W.D.



Although according to a report prepared by an investigator hired by the city, she denies having made the disclosures of medical information.

The HR manager and HR coordinator, who have asked to remain anonymous due to the private nature of the medical information at issue, had both previously worked under Gonzalez; in case of an emergency requiring medical treatment, both had informed her of their medical conditions. Each said they thought nothing of this standard disclosure – until they heard from a fellow employee in another city department. In a series of conversations with them about his own troubled working relationship with Gonzalez, that employee accused Gonzalez of discussing their confidential medical information with him. The two HR employees each say their informant revealed confidential medical information that he could have received only through Gonzalez herself. Their letters to city officials conclude with demands for their claims to be investigated.

The Cornell Report

In response to the employees' complaints, the city attorney's office, at Vassallo's request, hired local attorney Connie Cornell to investigate. On July 3, after interviewing the employees involved (including Gonzalez), Cornell submitted her confidential findings to Futrell, Vassallo, and assistant city attorney Robin Sanders. More than a month later, on Aug. 10, the employees were provided with copies of Cornell's confidential reports: two sets of findings addressing the complainants' allegations (in two brief reports, although the overlap in the allegations makes the two documents quite similar in content). In both reports, Cornell questions the motivation of the informant employee's initial communication concerning Gonzalez, since it occurred in the aftermath of a poor-job-performance review for which the informant held Gonzalez “uniquely accountable.”

Cornell's concluding analysis in each report appears more concerned to undermine the informant's credibility than to address seriously the employees' charges of administrative irre-

sponsibility. The report refers to “certain inconsistencies” in the informant's recollections, saying his memory of the specific occasions when and how Gonzalez revealed the employees' medical information was inconsistent – though it doesn't confirm or deny that he indeed received the confidential information. Asked about those inconsistencies, the informant responded that Gonzalez told him the information on different occasions and that instead of accepting written statements or recording her interviews, Cornell simply summarized his answers into her laptop without providing him a chance to review his statements. “Never did she give me an opportunity to review the documents, to see exactly what she typed. ... I don't believe she did a thorough, objective investigation.”

Cornell concluded that “there does not appear to be any evidence of discrimination by Gonzalez.” While questioning the informant's motives, her report sidesteps the question of how he had come to know the employees' confidential medical information in the first place. The report does suggest an alternative source – according to Cornell's notes summarizing her interview, Gonzalez described the HR coordinator as “very open with other employees about his medical condition, referring to certain medical procedures and making jokes.” The HR coordinator categorically rejects this version of events, insisting “it's not the truth.” The extent of the “jokes,” the HR coordinator insists, involved referring to blood-work appointments in Gonzalez's presence as trips to “see the vampires” – nothing more.

The most damning revelation in Cornell's report involves Gonzalez's alleged additional disclosure of the HR manager's medical information to the HR coordinator – when, he says, he was told of his friend's illness and that she was “off her medication.” Cornell's report is ambiguous on the issue of disclosure.

Cornell doesn't deny the disclosure may have occurred but attempts to excuse it. She writes, “Gonzalez denies having revealed” the medical conditions of the two employees but

continued on p.32

A KEY TO SOURCES

Because this story concerns confidentiality among city employees as well as private medical information, several of the principal sources have asked to remain anonymous, hoping to keep the personal matters private, at least for the present. Whether they will be able to do so if the controversy persists is another question.

In the interest of easier reading, here's a summary of who's involved:

The **HR coordinator** and the **HR manager** both work in Human Resources offices supervised by the city of Austin Human Resources Department; in June, they filed separate but nearly identical complaints that their supervisor, HR Department Assistant Director Sylvia Gonzalez, had revealed private medical information about them.

The **informant** is also a city employee in another department, who was the alleged conduit for the private information. He told the HR

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goes on to call the disclosure “credible.” Yet, Cornell continues, “assuming that Gonzalez did reveal medical information, there is no indication that she did so maliciously or with a desire to cause harm. In fact, [these employees] were trusted colleagues whom she had no reason to believe would use the information for ill.” Regardless, under federal law (see “ADA Confidentiality,” below) such medical information is confidential; the intent of the discloser is irrelevant.

Conflict Management

The employees were thoroughly disappointed with Cornell’s report and charge that she understated or misinterpreted their complaints in order to protect corporate HR and the city. At the end of August, union representative Guthrie wrote City Council on behalf of the employees, saying their “concerns were swept under the rug.” “How this witness would know not one but two employees’ medical conditions without being told by Gonzalez is beyond me,” Guthrie wrote. “Maybe the witness is psychic.” Guthrie described Cornell’s investigation as inadequate and incomplete and requested a new investigation by the City Auditor’s Integrity Unit.

With the dispute still festering, the city called instead on federal mediator Mike McMillion. A representative of the Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service, McMillion evaluates troubled work environments to provide appropriate “team building” and “conflict management” programs. In interviews, McMillion emphasized that his role is solely aimed at conflict resolution, not investigative findings, but he spoke with the directly affected employees, plus dozens more from other city departments – a total of more than 40 interviews.

By Sept. 21, when McMillion met with most of the principals (the HR manager was out of town), it was clear the situation he was attempting to resolve was bigger than this single dispute; the conversation also concerned the allegations of discrimination against African-American HR employees initially described in that May letter from “44 Human Resources Professionals with the City Of Austin.” With the Cornell investigation having satisfied no one and McMillion’s team-building exercises unable to address their specific complaints, the employees turned to Futrell. At the September meeting, she promised to investigate the matter herself.

In the interim, Gonzalez has had disciplinary action taken against her – but not for anything recorded in Cornell’s report. Instead, Futrell and Vassallo had learned that Gonzalez had contacted the informant by phone when Gonzalez learned he would be interviewed by Cornell. (The phone call somehow didn’t make it into Cornell’s report.) Vassallo called the contact “inappropriate” but concluded that the informant had not considered the phone call intimidating. However, in a memo to Vassallo

the informant disagreed: “I personally was concerned as I knew the ‘power’ Sylvia Gonzalez has in her current position and know how bleak my future with the City of Austin could be if I were at odds with Sylvia Gonzalez.” In her letter to council members, AFSCME’s Guthrie described the phone call as “what is known as impeding an investi-

gation,” and it earned Gonzalez a written reprimand from HR Department Director Cathy Rodgers.

Her investigation finished, on Oct. 31 Futrell released her findings to the affected HR employees. While declaring that most of the charges against Gonzalez “were unfounded” or “boil

Good afternoon,

I wanted to let you know that we have received the investigative reports prepared by Connie Cornell. As we suspected the employees’ concerns were swept under the rug. There was no finding concerning the ADA violation because the City claims that the witness is not credible. How this witness would know not one but two employees’ medical conditions without being told by Sylvia Gonzales is beyond me. Perhaps the witness is psychic. As if Ms. Gonzales had not been unprofessional enough, she contacted the witness during the investigation to tell him what to say to the attorney (Connie Cornell).

This is what is known as impeding an investigation. It is highly improper, and the City of Austin has terminated employees who engage in this type of behavior. However, the City has chosen to look the other way yet again. This was not brought to Kristen Vassallo’s attention until I mentioned it to her, or at least she did act surprised about the additional information. This information was given to Connie Cornell as part of the investigation. Therefore, it should have been reflected in Ms. Cornell’s report. One has to wonder what other information may have been withheld.

Excerpt from an Aug. 27 e-mail sent to City Council by union rep. Carol Guthrie

down to a ‘he said, she said’ situation,” Futrell acknowledged that “what has come to light after dozens of interviews with subordinates, peers and supervisors – past and present – is that Sylvia has developed a reputation in our organization for sharing inappropriate information with other employees and/or engaging in gossip.” Writing to one employee, she added, “this is particularly distressful since, as you pointed out, she was counseled in 2005 about this behavior by her former Department Director prior to being made an assistant director of corporate HR.” Futrell wrote that Gonzalez will receive “counseling and a written reprimand” from her director. The summaries end with a section titled “Next Steps,” admonishing all parties involved: “In general, I am deeply disappointed in the behavior and attitudes exhibited by many of our HR professionals on both sides of these issues.” She wrote to one employee, “There is culpability on all sides.”

Workplace politics flare up everywhere, but with layers of bureaucracy, institutional inertia, and proximity to public political considerations, civil-service positions are especially susceptible. In her notes to the employees, Futrell also responds to their complaints that they were denied promotions or reclassifica-

tion to higher positions and salaries – decisions in which Gonzalez either played a role or was perceived to have done so. And the city manager concludes that these perceptions of mistreatment are either unconfirmable or untrue. Yet concerning the pervasive allegations of sharing inappropriate information, Futrell describes them as “a disturbing trend.”

Closure?

Futrell told the *Chronicle* that, prior to this controversy, Gonzalez had already been considering other city positions. “She has let me know she is interested in going back into a departmental role as an [assistant director]. There are several department directors and several [assistant city managers] talking with her, and she is going to make that announcement.”

Meanwhile, the affected HR employees are considering their next move, including the possibility of taking legal action against the city – which would also require them to abandon the protection of anonymity. In the meantime, they continue to call for the termination of Gonzalez, on the grounds that the medical-information disclosures are only specific examples of her larger administrative failures. ■

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"A Doctor's Confession to the City of Austin..."

And why, despite all, I still help people live pain free...

Dear friend,

Confessions are tough, real tough. But, sometimes a confession can set the record straight, and I want to give credit where credit is due. Before I talk about my confession, though, let me say a few other things first. Let me start by explaining the photo in this letter. I'll start with me, the guy on the left.

Something happened to my mother that changed my life forever. My mom told my dad, "If God has plans to take me tomorrow, I wish he'd just take me today." At the time I was studying to become a physical therapist. My mom was experiencing neck and shoulder pain. She tried medication, physical therapy and acupuncture without results. I was worried that she would have to live with this pain for the rest of her life.

My mom realized that traditional medicine had nothing more to offer when her medical doctor said the pain was all in her head. She finally made an appointment with a chiropractor. Within a short course of treatment, she was pain-free. I was so inspired and excited about the miracle that occurred, I decided to become a chiropractor.

Can chiropractic help your children? The baby in the photo is Delia, my niece. At two weeks old, she spent most of her days with clenched fists and her knees to her chest. She spent her nights in discomfort—she wouldn't sleep and would vomit often. My frightened sister and brother-in-law brought Delia to her pediatrician. He said she had heartburn and prescribed baby Zantac. She was then brought to a homeopathic doctor who confirmed she had colic. The natural remedies gave her some relief but Delia still couldn't have a bowel movement without pain. At eight weeks old, she received her first chiropractic adjustment. Instantly she had a bowel movement. After six more adjustments, her colic and constipation disappeared.

The boy in the photo is Nick, my nephew. He started experiencing seizures a year ago. An EEG showed spiking brain waves. My brother and his wife



were scared that he would have to be on medication the rest of his life. I treated Nick for two months before his next EEG. The results were remarkable—no more spiking brain waves, which meant no more medicine!

Here's what some of my patients had to say:

"I was diagnosed with fibromyalgia in 1995...I couldn't do things most people take for granted... I recently returned to the work force." (S.W).

"I've been like a new person! No more pills. No more nausea, headaches, or abdominal pain." (P.H).

"I had headaches every day...I haven't had a headache in two weeks." (K.H).

Several times a day patients thank me for helping them with their health problems. But I can't really take the credit. **My confession is that I've never healed anyone of anything.** What I do is perform a specific spinal adjustment to remove nerve pressure, and the body responds by healing itself. We get tremendous results. It's as simple as that!

Being a chiropractor can be tough, because there's a host of so-called experts out there. They tell people a lot of things that are just plain ridiculous about my profession. But the studies speak

for themselves, like the Virginia study that showed that 99% of patients who saw a chiropractor were satisfied with their results. That's just incredible!

Forty-five million Americans **no longer have health insurance**, and those who do have found that their benefits are reduced. That's where chiropractic comes in. Many people find that they actually save money on their health care expenses by seeing a chiropractor. Another way to save...studies show that chiropractic can double your immune capacity, naturally and without drugs. The immune system fights colds, flues, and other sicknesses. So you may not be running off to the doctor as much. This is especially important if you are **self-employed**. And, an entire week of care in my office may cost what you could pay for one visit elsewhere.

Great care at a great fee...

Please, I hope that there's no misunderstanding about **quality of care** just because I have a lower exam fee. You'll get great care at a great fee. Because we have been so successful at helping people get out of pain, we have four offices in Texas & Illinois. Our main location has been helping people for the past 14 years, and we treat over 3000 people in the community. I just have that low fee to help more people who need care.

Our offices are both friendly and warm and we try our best to

make you feel at home. We have a wonderful service, at an exceptional fee. Our offices are called **Triple "C" Chiropractic** and were located at:

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-Dr. Daniel Grunert

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Memories of Norman Mailer

BY MICHAEL VENTURA

When I heard he died, I unwrapped from its protective cellophane my tattered, 75 cent, 1964 Bantam Pocket Book edition of *The Presidential Papers of Norman Mailer* – heavily underlined, held together with rubber bands, this was the book that jump-started my intellectual life in the spring of my 19th year. Mikey gave it to me. And I thought of the Bronx, back in the day, Mikey and me (“Mikey and me” is grammatical in the Bronx) – drunk, walking under the Jerome Avenue El, 8-ish on a cold New Year’s Eve. It’s a long story how Mikey had Mailer’s phone number. Mikey and me were without a New Year’s Eve party (also a long story), and we decided that Mailer – who lived in Brooklyn – would know where to find a wild bash. At a corner phone booth, we drank more courage, and I called. “Can I speak to Norman Mailer?” A woman’s voice: “Who’s calling?” “Just a guy in the Bronx.” A moment’s silence. Then Mailer, his imitation-thug voice: “Ya got 60 seconds, pal.” If only I’d stuck to the plan, I still think he might have laughed and invited us to a party. Alas, my courage failed; I mumbled something about being a writer and got the dial tone I deserved.

Fast-forward to autumn 1972: a lecture hall on the Berkeley campus filled to bursting with the shrillest of feminists, the gayest of gays, fringes left and right, and lit professors leading packs of profs-to-be – all eager to bait Mailer, whose work they found too forceful to ignore and too paradoxical to embrace. They were after something very like blood – its literary equivalent, some greenish substance, part pus and part sperm, that would surely flow all over the stage if *one* of them could get at this guy where he lived, best or shame him in front of a crowd. It was a den full of Daniels waiting to leap upon one middle-aged lusty lion.

Make that bear. When Mailer strode from the wings to the podium, he walked as though leaning into a wind, his chest out before him, looking at the crowd with a game and greedy smile. No stew of emotions would be too rank

for him, that smile said. They booed, they hissed, they applauded, all at once, and he inhaled it as if to say: “Is that the best you can do? You don’t stink enough!” They got louder. His smile got sly. They finally subsided into a vaguely hostile yet appreciative murmur. Everybody was having a good time.

The Sex Pistols were still six years away, so none of us knew that this atmosphere of mutually excited antagonism between audience and performer was pure punk.

I’d come early to secure a seat on the aisle, third or fourth row. To my knowledge, no American writer had yet been assassinated or kicked half to death – not, at any rate, for his writing – but if it was going to happen that year, it was going to be Mailer. In every niche of America, from Nixon’s White House to academic lefties, from Marxist feminists to far-right cabals, *somebody* was pissed at Mailer. So that night I had a Mailer-esque idea of being a hero. I was skinny, unpublished, trembling with rages I could not yet name, and eager for a fight. So I sat three steps and a leap from the stage, thinking that if it came to a rumble, I was on Mailer’s side.

Mailer’s *Presidential Papers*, *Advertisements for Myself*, *Cannibals and Christians*, and *The Prisoner of Sex* had been intellectually crucial to any vision of America I was ever going to have, and Mailer’s audacity as an essayist had shown me what was possible in that form. (James Baldwin and Murray Kempton were his equals as essayists, and no doubt wiser, but I wouldn’t see that until I was wiser.) *The Deer Park* and *An American Dream* were novels that taught me I wasn’t crazy, or, if I was crazy, I wasn’t alone in how I felt my magic. So I figured I owed Mailer. My fantasy went something like this: We’d fight side by side, get the shit kicked out of us, and later he’d read my stuff and introduce me to Mr. Simon, Mr. Schuster, Mr. Scribner, and whoever else published masterpieces. (The inner life of a serious unpublished writer is humid with such fantasies – they fog the eyes from the inside.)



PEAT DUGGINS

But I had underestimated Mailer’s ability to master a crowd. He opened by announcing that he’d come with important tidings and didn’t want to be interrupted, so would the feminists and gays please do their hissing and booing now. The house hissed and booed to a fare-thee-well. When the last hiss faded, he peered over the podium, waited a beat, and said, “O-beeeeeeee-diant little bitches, aren’t you?”

It was a ploy that had to work beautifully or start a riot, and it worked beautifully. This was a house that could appreciate a masterstroke when it saw one, and it laughed and applauded accordingly. There would be a couple of demonstrations – gays dressed as pricks dancing onto the stage, that sort of thing. There would be arguments. There would be catcalls and boos at various pronouncements. But the crowd was in his hands that night: They listened, they participated, they appreciated. I don’t think I’ve ever been in a room where so many people cared so much (and with such vitality!) about ideas. Like I said, everybody

was having a good time – my desperate assistance was not needed.

Fifteen years later, autumn of 1987, Los Angeles ... Mailer and I had changed a lot. Me, I’d made my bones as a working writer and published my first book. As for Mailer, he no longer wrote frequent essays about every American crisis and social shift, and his hefty early-Eighties novel, *Ancient Evenings*, I’d found unreadable. Even admirers like myself, ready then and now to defend Mailer against all comers, no longer suspected that he might write the great American novel of the late 20th century. He didn’t seem to expect that, either. He’d just directed a movie based on his entertaining but forgettable novel *Tough Guys Don’t Dance* – a movie of excesses (of course), silly flaws (of course), but (of course) gutsy and (surprisingly) well-crafted. We met for an interview at a fancy hotel on Sunset Boulevard.

Mailer no longer walked like a bear. His was a sailor’s walk now, and an old sailor’s at that – an easy roll from the hips. Mid-60ish, gray,

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a little shorter than me, robustly affable, a sweet sparkle in his blue eyes (as blue as Frank Sinatra's, as blue as Bob Dylan's). His voice – richly modulated and gentle. His manner – courtly, in a sense that you almost never see in this country. The presence of a man who had nothing left to prove.

Norman who?!

By 1987 I'd met a lot of famous people, famous for many different things, but I'd never met anyone so different in private from what he'd appeared to be, for so long, in public. He had the humility of one who has found the limits of his rage. Twenty or so books, six marriages, umpteen newsworthy hassles, thousands of public appearances – each met (if we are to believe his writing, and I do) as an exploration, a test, an attempt (as he'd written) “to take an existential turn, to walk into the nightmare.” All seemed to have resulted in a weirdly radiant sweetness.

But then, I was meeting Mailer in his capacity as a film director, and directors (considering the demands of their business) are a suspiciously calm lot. It is a calm achieved by enacting one's excesses through others. And while, as a dynamic, it is not all that different from many marriages and nearly all child-rearing, it is certainly one of the dirty little pleasures of directing films. But no, Mailer had lived out enough of his excesses for one to feel that he'd come by this surprisingly calm presence honestly. For anyone to whom he's been important, as teacher or as antagonist, it's worth reporting that Mailer's attentive, interested calm seemed to be the signature of that rarest creature of all: a human being who has gone his distance and can look in his mirror without shame, artifice, or surprise.

I never told him I was the Bronx guy who'd intruded a sour note on a long-ago New Year's Eve. He never knew what an irony it was that one day he'd pick up a phone and invite me to a couple of parties. (The first was dull. The second ... noir actor Lawrence Tierney, now deceased, painfully twisted my arm and popped my elbow. It hurt for days. I never thought to hit him back – he was old. Anyway, even old, Tierney could probably whip my ass.) A greater irony: Mailer contributed a blurb to my first novel – just what that drunk kid wanted, in that cold phone booth under the thundering Jerome Avenue El. Let's end with a sentence of his, let it be his epitaph, a sentence even his fiercest detractor must reckon with. “For there was that law of life, so cruel and so just, which demanded that either one must change or pay more for remaining the same.” ■

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the arts

38 KAREN KUYKENDALL 42 BOOK REVIEWS 43 BACHELOSER WINNER 44 AFTER A FASHION

365 Days/365 Plays



BRET BROOKSHIRE

After 52 weeks, a sense of accomplishment and a blessing

What began with Granny Smith apples under a frosty night sky ended with marigolds bathed in the warm glow of hundreds of candles. On Nov. 17, 2006, Austin's participation in the national event called 365 Days/365 Plays was started with a performance on the Pfluger Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge, and on Nov. 10, 2007, Austin brought its part in this theatrical phenomenon to a close with a performance just a stone's throw away, on the Groten Stage of the Zachary Scott Theatre Center. Close to 200 people were on hand for the finale, which may not have boasted the stars, skyline, and river that served as backdrop for the launch, but what it lacked in natural spectacle (and freezing temperatures), the farewell performance made up for with a sense of accomplishment and of community. After all, 51 groups across the city – from professional theatre artists to middle-school students – had succeeded in performing all 365 plays that Pulitzer prize winner Suzan-Lori Parks wrote from Nov. 13, 2002, to Nov. 12, 2003, and had produced them with Austin's characteristic variety and creativity. Plays were read in an apartment and performed at the Blanton Museum. Plays were done under the Zilker Christmas tree and filmed and put online (www.bayou-radio.com/365.htm). So the Nov. 10 event was more than just a performance of the plays in week 52; it was a celebration of all the performances from all 52 weeks. And host Zachary Scott Theatre Center, which was the coordinating entity for all of the Austin productions, made a point of thanking all the

participants (with special thanks to heroic coordinators Michelle Fowler-Amato and Shannon Richey).

There was a nice sense of symmetry to the event, with it being produced by Zach and directed by Dave Steakley, just as the first week was, and with several of the actors who appeared in the first week performing again: Martin Burke, Les McGehee, Janis Stinson, and Jill Blackwood. And especially with the playwright again being present and appearing to be having as grand a time as she had the year before, despite having had only two hours'



Suzan-Lori Parks

BRET BROOKSHIRE

worth of sleep since Parks had opened her Broadway-bound musical about Ray Charles at Pasadena Playhouse the night before. If anything made the occasion sweeter, it was that she was joined by 365 producer Bonnie Metzgar, who interviewed some of the Austin participants for film documentation of the festival. As the final week of plays featured an appearance by the elephant-headed god Ganesha, Steakley gave the evening an Indian theme, with food catered by Taj Palace and a concluding dance by Natasha Raheja, of the Nritya Sangam Indian Dance Troupe.

As she danced, extolling the virtues of the feminine power, Shakti, and seeking the compassion and blessings of the goddess Parvati, mother of Kartikeya and Ganesha, curtains behind her parted to reveal an altar overflowing with marigolds and hundreds of tea candles. It had the feel of a blessing, and indeed, looking back over the past 365 days, that's very much what this project was, for our city and for the nation. Thank you, Suzan-Lori Parks and Bonnie Metzgar, for giving it to us. – Robert Faires

Bubba and Babe's Backwoods Texas Wedding

Dinner-theatre nuptials, Texas-style

At a certain point in your life, you've been to enough weddings that you've seen it all: fighting couples, pregnant brides, singing marriage counselors ...

Or maybe not. *Bubba and Babe's Backwoods Texas Wedding*, the new venture by the Esther's Follies company, serves up all of that and more for dinner-theatre audiences at Patsy's Cowgirl Cafe. The cast of 11 actors, singers, improvisers, and the occasional juggler fill out a character list of what director Doug Ewart calls "real, lovable rednecks." While it's not far in concept from *Tony n' Tina's Wedding*, the interactive send-up of Italian-American weddings, *Bubba and Babe's* follows a more defined story.

The proposal for the countrified couple's celebration came about several months ago but was not accepted until the fall, when the company held auditions for the regular Esther's Follies company and found they had more talent than they could cast. So, naturally, they created a whole new production. They had seven weeks to create and rehearse the show before the Nov. 14 opening.

Seven weeks is generally considered a short time to create a play from scratch. But that's only if you plan to write and develop a traditional script. In keeping with the Esther's Follies mode of rehearsed improv, the *Bubba and Babe's* team chose to make it up as they went.

"What's great about doing the improv aspect of it is it can change from night to night," Ewart says. "[The show] is very audience-oriented. Since we were able to cast some very good improvisers, it made that



question of 'do we write it, do we improvise it?' that much easier."

Much has been left to the actors. "We didn't even know [all the characters] for a couple weeks. We wanted people to develop who they were at first," Ewart says.

The show opens and closes with a couple of fast-paced songs, in which the cast directs the audience to "grab yourself a beer and your good pair of socks" as they launch into rehearsed but unscripted scenes. Rehearsals resembled a chaotic horde of bickering hillbillies who occasionally burst into organized song.

Ewart says that after the winter run in front of the cowgirl mural on the Patsy's stage, Esther's Follies hopes to make the show available for corporate events or private parties and possibly a tour. Actors will likely join and leave the cast as their schedules permit, but Ewart says that he plans for Bubba and Babe to stumble and stagger their way to the altar for months to come.

– Elizabeth Cobbe

Bubba and Babe's Backwoods Texas Wedding runs Nov. 28-Dec. 19, Wednesdays, 7:30pm, at Patsy's Cowgirl Cafe, 5001 E. Ben White. For more information, call 320-0553.

Vitality: A Baroque Thanksgiving

Music to give thanks by

So you've devoured turkey, savored mashed potatoes and gravy, and sampled green-bean casserole – at least. You may have even enjoyed a turkey sandwich or two, along with one or more slices of pie, in front of but not necessarily watching innumerable football games. By the time Thanksgiving Saturday rolls around, you're stuffed like the bird was on Thursday and ready for something completely different. Well, the Chamber Soloists of Austin have an item on their menu they hope will add a very special course to your holiday weekend – Vitality: A Baroque Thanksgiving, the first concert in CSA's 21st concert season.

Having a season's first concert on a holiday weekend might seem counterintuitive, but it's worked out well for CSA. "We always avoided Thanksgiving weekend," says founding member and violist Joan Kalisch, "thinking, 'Oh my God, everybody's going to be out of town!'" But three or four years ago, we were having some really fine musicians come down to Austin for Thanksgiving, and we thought, why don't we try a concert? So we did, and, lo and behold, we actually got a good audience. And we decided that's because a lot of people have guests come in for Thanksgiving, and by Saturday they're looking for something to do. So we don't necessarily get all the same people that usually frequent our concerts, but this may draw some new audience members to our future concerts."

Thoughts of Thanksgiving don't necessarily give rise to desires for Baroque music, the often rambunctious, always highly ornamented style that saw its greatest popularity at the



beginning of the 17th century. But in practice, the two go together like turkey and cranberry sauce. Baroque composers wrote innumerable pieces for small ensembles in intimate settings because so many of them were employed at court. Says Kalisch: "They often were the hired help and provided music for all occasions. There were different kinds of music that their counts or their princes wanted to have. If it was a wedding, they wanted a big, fancy, celebratory piece, and if it was a special dinner, they wanted some chamber music. A lot of Baroque music was written for some kind of celebration. It's very happy, joyous music, and it goes really well with Thanksgiving."

To put the cream on the pudding, CSA offers a chamber group rather than a chamber ensemble, as 14 musicians will participate in Vitality, playing pieces by Bach, Vivaldi, and Telemann, two of whom were employed as court composers.

"We're featuring the string players," says Kalisch. "We have a piece for four violas that's a concerto and a piece for four violins that's a concerto and one for two cellos, and then we have one solo violin piece and one solo flute piece."

The concert will be followed by a reception and a little something that every one of us can use at this time of year: dessert!

– Barry Pineo

The Chamber Soloists of Austin present Vitality: A Baroque Thanksgiving, Saturday, Nov. 24, 8pm, at First Presbyterian Church, 8001 Mesa. For more information, visit www.chambersoloists.com.

FOR MORE ON THESE AND OTHER EVENTS, SEE **arts listings** • P.78



Entranced Remembering one who fascinated us all: Karen Kuykendall, 1937-2007

When Karen Kuykendall entered a room, you knew it. She made sure of that. She might announce herself with a slightly too loud greeting to the first person she saw, carefully pitched just above the drone of casual conversation so as to catch everyone's ear; she might introduce herself to an old friend as if the two had never met, drawing "Karen Kir-ken-doll" slowly and with exaggerated enunciation, as if the party to whom she was speaking was hard of hearing (or simple); or she might offer some dry judgment on the quality of the other guests or the host's attire or the alcohol being served. Or she might just make plain in that famously smoky voice her need for some gin.

As an actress of no little experience, Karen understood the importance of an entrance. But unlike many performers, who leave that knowledge at the stage door, Karen applied it in life: to every party, every social occasion, every encounter with a friend. It wasn't necessarily about making herself the center of attention (although Karen surely enjoyed attention); it had more to do with her desire to *entertain* – in terms of both show business and hospitality. Early on, she learned the pleasure she could give others with her singing and acting, and she delighted in doing that all her days. And her mother, Mary Faulk Kooch, who turned the family's South Austin home into the restaurant Green Pastures, showed Karen the special grace of hosting others: welcoming them into your home, sharing your food and drink, feting them. Karen came into a room aiming to please, and when she spoke, you knew it.

When Karen left the room, you knew it, too, by the sudden absence of her singular presence, the energy and glamour and star power and joie de vivre that she radiated like some puckish little sun. Of course, she always left you with a memory, some compliment or joke or introduction to someone she thought you should know. Karen has left the room for good now, but true to form, she's left her countless friends – and all it took was meeting Karen once for her to consider you her friend – with so many memories: of her performances, of her wit, of her kindnesses, of the way she embraced life so fiercely and thoroughly. In tribute to this remarkable woman, who would have celebrated her 70th birthday this week, here are a few fond remembrances of her. — Robert Faires

Sterling Price-McKinney Composer, performer

I met Karen Kuykendall because the playwright Marty Martin asked me if I had written any sad songs. I had, and one night in my loft apartment at Sixth and Trinity, I played and sang him some. Several months later, a play of his called *The Necessary Luxury Company* had a run at Capitol City Playhouse. I threw him a preopening night party and met the man I live with today, Lorne Loganbill, who was playing Apollinaire. It was also the first time I met Karen, who was Alice B. Toklas in the play. She was impressed by the intimate soiree I had thrown on a starving artist's budget. For years, she enjoyed telling the story that I had bought the champagne for that party one bottle at a

time and that she knew we would be good friends because I "aspired to be pretentious." Both statements were, of course, true. I am no more practical now than the moment we met.

I had seen her on the stage first in Marty Martin's *Sarah Bernhardt: Farewell Performance* and a bit later in Stephen Sondheim's *Company*. I took note of her because I had a song I wanted, or perhaps needed, someone to sing. And it couldn't be just anyone. To me, it wasn't just a song, it was a credo – one that stated up front that life is a series of disappointments but that it is one's duty to survive, even thrive, in spite of everything. Life goes on. And so must you. And so must we all. The song is called "The Ballerina Song," and we performed it many times over many years. In a social world where many considered us an unlikely couple, "The Ballerina Song" was the common denominator that leveled our playing field. It puts all the cards on the table, flying in the face of polite society's usual nondisclosure. At seven minutes, simultaneously telling off the world and embracing it, it was perfect for her. She gave that song its voice. For many, it is our most enduring collaboration.

When I arrived to accompany Karen to the B. Iden Payne Awards the week before she died, she was doing her hair and make-up. Or rather, it was being done for her as she sat in front of the mirror. I had flown in from New York the night before and hadn't seen her for about three weeks. As she stood to put the finishing touches on her cheeks herself, I was struck by how fragile she seemed and wondered aloud if we should be going out at all. But instead of responding to that, she fed me the opening line from one of our longest-running backstage jokes: an appropriation of a famous exchange between Helena Rubinstein and one of her assistants that we often used to dispel tension before events. With a wry smile, she queried, "Is this enough rouge?" I answered (as always), "I don't think it's too much." There was a longer than usual pause before her response, a pause that spoke volumes about determination, pain killers, and sheer exhaustion. I took her hand for a second, and as we looked at each other in the mirror, we said the punch line together: "I already know it's too much. The question is, 'Is it enough?'" Luckily, it was.

Paul Beutel

Former director of the Paramount Theatre, actor

I was once married to Karen Kuykendall – onstage. It was in a production of Stephen Sondheim's *Company* in 1981 at the University of Texas, back in the days when UT staged musicals in the summer and would mix students with community actors. Karen played Joanne, the middle-aged, acerbic woman who handled life with the aid of several vodka stingers, a role immortalized on Broadway by the great

Elaine Stritch. The only thing Karen had in common with Joanne was the dry wit, but no other actress in Austin had the presence, the comic timing, and the ability to pull off Joanne's great, angry anthem, "The Ladies Who Lunch."

Karen and I had done *Company* together a few years earlier at the old Center Stage theatre on Sixth Street. She was Joanne, of course, and I was a minor character. Karen had so owned the part that when UT decided to stage it, any other actress in the role was unthinkable. As was the oldest male (age 30!) being considered for the UT production, I ended up playing Larry, Joanne's husband, even though Karen had a dozen years on me. The technical rehearsal at the B. Iden Payne Theatre was a nightmare, as the director battled with the lighting designer and the set malfunctioned, almost maiming a couple of actors. The cast was frazzled. On opening night, Karen was brilliant in Joanne's extended monologue that is the focal point of Act II. Then, without warning, she twisted a key line of dialogue so that it effectively skewered the show's director. No one but the cast and crew got the in-joke, and the scene still played as intended. Nevertheless, it was a glorious catharsis for all of us who had suffered through the rehearsals, and we loved her for it. The director took it well. How could anyone be mad at Karen?

For the next 27 years, whenever I would encounter Karen at the theatre or at parties, she would always refer to me as her "stage husband," and I would fondly recall the *Company* triumph that she made her own in more ways than one!

Connie McMillan

Theatregoer par excellence

After almost 40 years of theatregoing in Austin, I have brigades of Karen Kuykendall characters marching through my head – so many that it's hard to zero in on a single one. And some of my favorites have already been noted in other tributes: Karen smashing tomatoes to the floor as the old Italian mother in *Big Love*, Karen shaping a complete little one-act opera out of Sterling Price-McKinney's "The Ballerina Song." So I'll focus on the Voice – that smoky, plummy, pseudo-British, grande-dame stage voice. It took that kind of voice to embody the larger-than-life Joanne in two productions of *Company*. It took that kind of voice to embody the demanding, unreasonable Agnes in *The Shadow Box*, who abuses the kindly

continued on p.40



I'll Take Café Manhattan: Karen and musical partner Sterling Price-McKinney, 1980s

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daughter who is her attentive caregiver. It took that kind of voice to embody a resilient German landlady in *Cabaret*, an ancient Jewish rabbi in *Angels in America*, an American fashion icon in *Full Gallop*, and a certain former Texas governor with cotton-candy hair in *House Arrest*. Perhaps the Voice was best known by Austinites from radio and television ads where she always made performances of Ballet Austin’s *The Nutcracker* sound slightly seductive (maybe even a little dirty). Ah, nothing like that whis-key voice! But what I remember best is her voice hollering a greeting to me across a lobby after a show – with a good-old-girl twang that showed her Texas roots. I always wished she had done more shows in *that* voice.

Dave Steakley
Artistic director, Zachary Scott Theatre Center

My fondest Karen memories are from *Angels in America*, because I was getting to know her in-depth over the course of a full year while staging this mammoth six-hour play. There was a scene where Robin Christian, who played the angel, had to passionately kiss Karen as the Mormon mother Hannah. Robin kept freezing up when we got to this moment because she was going to have to make out with this Austin legend and she was completely intimidated. After the third failed attempt, Karen railed, “Oh for God’s sake! Have you never kissed a woman before? How am I supposed to act with this?”

Most actors say “Line” in rehearsal when they can’t remember their next line. For Karen, it was always a very long pause followed by a coquettish, “Is it me?” When she knew she had the next line but wasn’t sure what it was, she’d utter a deadpan, “What is it?” completely falling out of character in her distinctive baritone. Even if it was something as mundane as asking for a line, Karen made a “moment” of it.

When *Angels Part II* was in performance, we went back into rehearsals to get *Part I* back on stage in rep. At our first rehearsal, Martin Burke as Louis and Karen as the rabbi shared a scene, and Karen completely went up on her lines. But instead of the usual “What is it?” Martin, under his breath, began feeding Karen each of her lines for the entire scene, which she began repeating verbatim. She started to chuckle, then laugh, then her eyes watered from laughter, but she kept saying the lines. By the end of the scene, she was in complete laughing hysterics, shouting and doubled-over, as was I and the entire cast and crew. We had to stop and just laugh nonstop for 10 minutes. I have never had such an amazing side-splitting laugh with a group of people. Karen always complained teasingly that she had to “carry” Martin in all of their scenes because he was so incapable. The truth was that she adored him and loved being on stage with him.

When *Angels* playwright Tony Kushner came and did an event for Zach prior to the show’s opening, he was completely entranced with Karen and holed up with her in a corner of the lobby. Afterward, when I took him to his hotel, he couldn’t stop talking about her. She had that effect on all of us.

Shawn Sides
Rude Mechs co-artistic director, actress, director

I had the great honor of working with Karen on *Big Love* in 2001. She single-handedly doubled the Rude Mechs’ audience by luring her friends and fans to our shabby little warehouse

in what was then a scary-looking part of town. And she couldn’t have been a better sport about the less-than-luxurious dressing room. Performing with her was a lesson in the power of stillness and calm. She was light as a feather, both physically and in temperament, but she exerted this formidable gravitational pull. You always sort of tipped toward her on the stage. Certainly the audiences’ eyes did. We Rudes can get a little overfrenetic, and we were really lucky to learn from such a grand teacher the power of a pause and a look. And of “more rouge, dear, just a little more rouge.”

Stephen Mills
Artistic director of Ballet Austin, choreographer

Karen was on the board of directors when I joined Ballet Austin in 1986. We immediately became friends and over the years had the opportunity to work together a couple of times. I remember Karen for her thoughtfulness. When I made *Red Roses*, my first ballet



How Green Were My Pastures: Karen at her childhood home, 2007

for the company, I received a handwritten note from Karen. It was on bright-red stationery, written with a black Sharpie, and the stamp was placed in the middle of the envelope. She mentioned several things she liked, things so small that I wasn’t sure anyone had noticed them. She noticed everything. She continued to write notes after every ballet I made. It was always wonderful to receive her critiques. Even when others didn’t review the work positively, Karen always did. As an artist, how could you not love that? The dances I worked with her on were *Kisses*, a piece where Karen was onstage singing torch songs, and *Light/The Holocaust and Humanity Project*. During the making of *Light*, probably the most personal work I’ve had the opportunity to make, Karen was unbelievably supportive, nurturing, and awesome. I will always remember Karen for her caring, her inspirational courage, her beauty, and that wonderful trademarked white hair.

Virginia B. Wood
Austin Chronicle Food editor

In the 30-some-odd years I’ve called Austin home, I had known several members of the legendary Faulk/Kooock family long before I ever met Karen (Kooock) Kuykendall. I knew her by reputation, of course, and certainly appreciated her theatrical and cabaret performances, but we didn’t actually meet until 2001, when University of North Texas Press reissued Mary Faulk

Kooock’s seminal work, *The Texas Cookbook*, as part of their Great American Cooking series. I considered the book an important piece of Texas culinary history and had treasured my long-lost signed copy of the original. Karen was handling local publicity for the book, and we got together to discuss it around the kitchen table in her comfortable West Austin home. Like thousands before me, I was captivated. Karen shared stories about her mother’s hospitality and spun tales about growing up on the (then) rural estate that Mrs. Kooock eventually turned into the Austin landmark restaurant Green Pastures. I told her about a childhood memory of a family meal at Green Pastures and mentioned what an inspiration Mrs. Kooock had been to me as a caterer and food writer. I admitted to being more than a little jealous that she and her siblings called the graceful Southern mansion their home. We bonded over my admiration for her mother and our mutual appreciation of good food and hospitality. From that day on, Karen



How Green Were My Pastures: Karen at her childhood home, 2007

treated me as though we’d always been friends. I realize that I’m only one of many who shared that experience, but I consider myself so lucky to have been in that number. (See “Among Green Pastures Again,” Oct. 19, 2001.)

Robyn Turner
Author, playwright

Karen had a way of making everyone feel as though she had something special to offer them every time she came around. She made each person feel as though she was an advocate for that person, and even though she was a Scorpio, you just knew that if you had to have a brief shouting match with her, which I once did during rehearsals, she’d bounce right back to being a great friend, and she always did, regardless of the circumstance.

More than anything, I adored her honesty, brutal as it sometimes was. If she was bullshitting, however, and especially when she knew you knew, she made a point of owning up to it right away by making fun of the situation. She was very direct, and that straightforwardness I found attractive.

I loved working with Karen on creative endeavors. Nothing was out of the question with her, and thus, we were a perfect match. She went to NYC with me to talk with a producer about a play I was writing. She starred in the play I scripted about Frances Nail; I was in the audience all 14 performances, mesmerized

by the evolution of her solo performance. Being with her during rehearsals and on John Aielli’s talk show, I marveled at her ability to think on her feet. She was always on hand to respond to and edit wild and woolly ideas.

As busy as Karen was, she was just about always *there* to talk with, relax with, drink wine with, run *\$#(\$#0 on people with, travel with, go to plays with, party with at my house or at her house, celebrate with, philosophize with, dream with, think with, brainstorm with, and she was such a good listener. *God*, she was smart. She could hear something, process it, and come back to you immediately with a cogent and an insightful solution – regardless of how much gin she had downed. Rare. I love it that Margaret Keys described her as a lioness. She looked like one, and she lived like one.

One night she and I went to see *Peter Pan* at the Paramount. To the line, “If you believe in magic, clap your hands,” not only did Karen clap her hands, she stood up – we were on the front row – and yelled, “Yeeesssss! I believe in magic, you *bet* I do!!!” She turned to the audience and got them going; everyone started screaming for Tinkerbell.

Steve Moore and Katie Pearl
Playwright and director, Physical Plant Theatre

At Don Howell’s suggestion, Karen came to a table reading of *Peter Pan* 16 days before she died. Don had said – and Karen confirmed – that she’d always wanted to play Peter, so we cast her as Peter. Of course.

From the moment we’d signed her up, we’d been looking forward to hearing Peter’s words with Karen’s puckishness, her charisma, her fearlessness. She did bring those things, all of them, exuberantly and without fuss – and just as the Lost Boys in the play look to Peter as their leader, all of us in the room looked to Karen. Some of us knew her well, some a little, some not at all; it didn’t matter. When Karen was in a room, she commanded it with her attitude of I-don’t-give-a-damn-what-you-think-of-me-I’m-gonna-love-you-anyway-and-say-whatever-I-want.

But for all that, as she read Peter, she also found his tenderness and vulnerability. Playing that character well means letting the audience see that Peter is swimming desperately to escape a whirlpool of dark self-knowledge. Playing the character beautifully, however, as Karen did that day, means letting us see that at any moment the whirlpool might win.

Mostly Peter swims away from that darkness, and sometimes he swims right at it. Sometimes he’s thriving when he thinks he’s drowning and drowning when he thinks he’s faring well. Ebullient as she was by nature, Karen knew that, all of that, had been through all of it herself. Knowing it made her a heartbreaking Peter Pan – a Peter with a wheeze in his voice: swimming to escape, pausing to be pulled back, swimming again.

We videotaped the reading and, on the tape, Karen is tiny and frail. Those who knew how sick she was knew we might not see her again. Despite all that, in that room on that day, she was just Karen: large, strong, so classy, so funny, and so ready – as always – to offer to all of us what she offered to Peter: that deep empathy of hers and that true and effortless kindness. To encounter her that day or anywhere at any time was to feel her leaning in, looking deep, and saying, “Darling, you’re going to be fine.” ■

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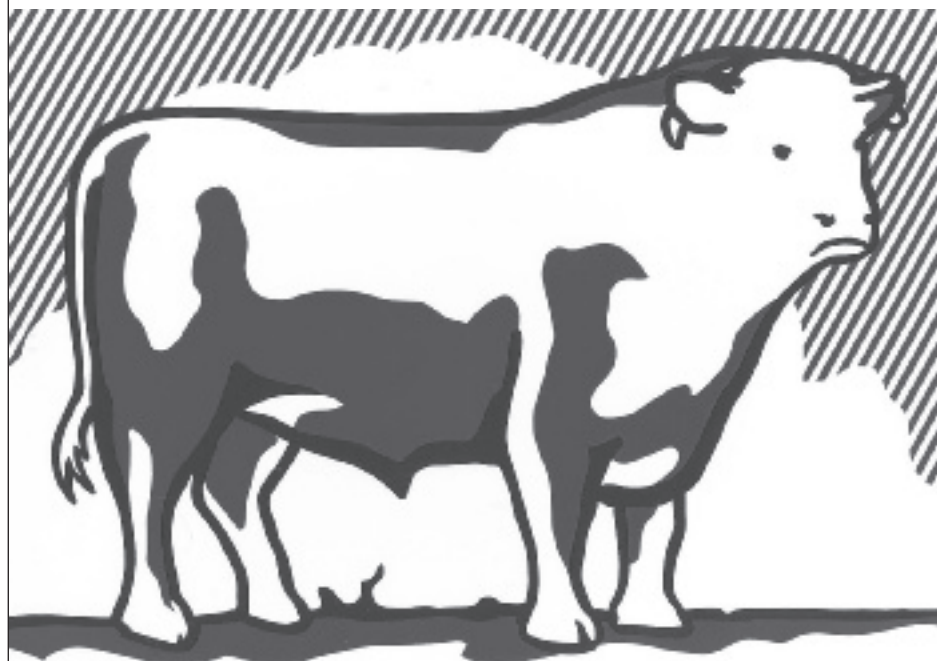


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SHOOTING WAR

by Anthony Lappé and Dan Goldman
Grand Central Publishing,
192 pp., \$21.99

"There are two things I know to be true. There's no difference between good flin and bad flin, and there is no war," so saith William H. Macy as CIA agent Charles Young in 1997's comedic satire *Wag the Dog*. What made *Wag the Dog* such a haunting story was its plausibility. The idea of a fabricated war, complete with photographic images and video footage, no longer seemed to be a what-if question, especially as it was released just before the explosive Monica Lewinsky scandal, shortly followed by former President Clinton's decision to send troops into Kosovo. Soon enough, tiresome coverage of the scandal seemed to be fading from every television channel, replaced by screens filled with dead Albanians. And so the politicos and network execs shook hands and called it a day.

Shooting War, writer Anthony Lappé and illustrator Dan Goldman's glossy, all-color graphic novel, is another such political satire focused on the business of corrupt journalism, wars on terror (specifically the war in Iraq before it smoothly transitions into the war in Iran), and networks



shaking hands with governments. In Lappé and Goldman's future, it's 2011, and Starbucks is more than an unfortunate American constant; it's an American icon. Elton John is dead. McCain is the president. The kids are playing PlayStation4 and Xbox 365. The future of independent journalism is in live-stream video-blogging. Yet the general climate of America in *Shooting War* – of vacant,

ratings-based broadcast journalism and a chaotic, ceaseless war instigated on false pretenses – is familiar. In the comic-book creators' eerie vision of life in America, the future is the present, only slightly exacerbated by scientific and technological breakthroughs.

Shooting War was originally created as a serialized Web comic on SmithMag.net in 2006, but the authors finally yielded to the request of their fans to turn the Web comic into a book, adding 110 pages of new material, including new plot twists, more Dan Rather, and story closure. Similar to a movie dominated by images of war and violent fight scenes, the comic, at times, drags on and falters a little in interesting plot twists. Any story defects, however, are overshadowed by Goldman's striking artistic style. Goldman fuses digital photography he has both shot and found with digitally hand-drawn vector art to make for a highly technologically advanced spin on an old format.

– Sofia Resnick

Anthony Lappé and Dan Goldman will be at BookPeople for a booksigning Friday, Nov. 30, 7pm.

THE HYPOCRISY OF DISCO: A MEMOIR

by Clane Hayward

Chronicle Books, 240 pp., \$22.95

Disco doesn't have much to do with anything in Clane Hayward's memoir of her late-Seventies, peripatetic preteens, which were spent shuttling between a hippie mom, redneck dad, and anybody else with an open space – but not necessarily an open heart – in which Hayward could crash. The title comes from a drug-fueled monologue the girl overhears at a party ("the hypocrisy of disco, you know, because it's all totally ripped off from soul music but cleaned up so it won't scare whitey"), but it could easily be reappropriated to comment on the hypocrisies of her "Zen robot" mother, who preaches one love, one universe hokum while exhibiting a near-criminal indifference to her children. Hayward, who teaches middle school in Austin, opens her memoir with a slumber party in an abandoned school bus in Northern California, and it's a deceptively good time – what kid doesn't dream of this kind of free-reined upbringing? But as Hayward's mother, H'lane, uproots the family again and again, the sense of adventure leaks away, and things turn positively terrifying when H'lane and her loin-cloth-wearing boyfriend take Hayward to live off the land



on Sugarloaf Mountain. Nothing to do and little to eat result in a complete absence of desire in Hayward: "I eat because I have to and I eat what I have and I have even stopped thinking about food. I've stopped thinking about anything."

There's a dreaminess to every place Hayward ends up – oftentimes she doesn't remember how she got there or the goodbyes – but there she is, in a trailer park, her father's beat-up house in New Mexico with no electricity, her grandmother's catalog-perfect home in Vegas. As if to combat that dreaminess, Hayward renders the functionings of each new household, landscape, weather pattern, with a specificity that occasionally toes tiresome. But even when the story loses steam – the last half feels unformed – it's saved, always, by Hayward's clear-eyed approximation of her 12-year-old voice. She isn't a sentimental writer, but she knows how to quietly devastate, as in an episode where an uncle's girlfriend washes Hayward's hair in the sink, and Hayward marvels that it's been months "since a woman's hands have smoothed my hair or rubbed my shoulders." Hayward's memoir ends abruptly – aggravatingly, even; an optimist would call *The Hypocrisy of Disco* a case for the resilience of children, but with no epilogue, no "we made it out okay in the end," it's at most an unsettling study in the carelessness of adults.

– Kimberley Jones



Postmark deadline: Dec. 17
austinchronicle.com/shortstory

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We here at BookPeople are celebrating the release of the special Holiday Edition of the Leslie Magnets! Come join in the revelry with Leslie and the BookPeople family as we keep up with the after-Thanksgiving tradition of eating turkey sandwiches.



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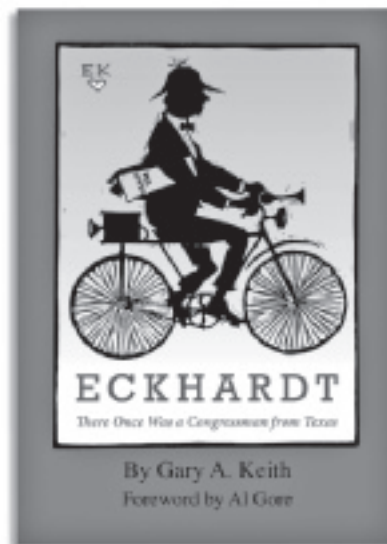
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AND THE LOSER IS ...

The *Chronicle's* first-ever **least-eligible-bachelor search** drew its fair share of laughs, jokes, and ridicule, just as we hoped it would, but we couldn't be happier with the cross section of losers attracted. We'd like to thank all the candidates who nominated themselves, as well as those who nominated others – you guys were truly the antithesis to this season's *Bachelor*, local twin-swapping, frosted-tip man-candy Brad Womack.

It was a cringe-worthy race, but in the end, one man stood out: Thirty-three-year-old call-center manager **Chris McMinn** lives with his retired parents, has a broken-down Lumina, and hasn't been "touched in a romantic fashion" by a woman in six years. His unnatural love for Natty (Natural Light beer, a favorite of the broke) made him a textbook case.

Thanks to *Chronicle* cutup Alan Metoskie for readily posing shirtless (and, more memorably, pantsless) for our ads and video. Also, congrats to our runners-up: 37-year-old Wheatsville clerk/World War II encyclopedist **Doug Boone** and 23-year-old KLBJ intern **Robert Baen**. Here's a quick Q&A session with our Bachelor. Thanks for the memories. — Audra Schroeder

Austin Chronicle:

First of all – Natty?

Chris McMinn: Ahhh, another nonbeliever! Natty is awesome in many ways. It's cheap, goes for anywhere between \$5 to \$7 a 12-pack, and is mostly water, so you rarely suffer a hang-over. This also makes it a great choice for drinking in the Texas heat. It's refreshing like a cool spring on a summer's day.

AC: What's a typical day like for you?

CM: I usually wake up around 1pm and take my dog out. After that I enjoy some cereal, then take a shower. Yes, I use Axe shower gel in hopes of attracting female attention. Pops drops me off at my job around 2:30. My job consists of low-level IT work and managing telemarketers. Doesn't pay much, but I like it. I also get to surf HornFans.com all day. The site isn't just about football; it's a very



diverse online community representing many interests. Dad picks me up around 9pm and takes me home, where my mutt greets me with much enthusiasm. Me and the dog hop in the Green Hornet, my broke-down Lumina, and head to the store for sweet Natty. I retreat to my room, where I drink, surf the Net, play video games [*Guitar Hero*, *Black, Killzone*], and catch Jerry Springer at 3am.

AC: Do you have an ideal woman?

CM: One who thinks I am the shiznit and has an appreciation of the finer things, such as myself. It would also be good if she had a car for us to do stuff. As far as looks go, I have pretty low standards. As long as she doesn't weigh more than I do, I'm game.

AC: You're a big gamer – do you have a Second Life?

CM: Never have played that.

I am more of a console gamer: PS2, Xbox 360. I can't afford the new PS3. I like platform games like *God of War 2* and first-person shooters like *Killzone*. The *GTA* [*Grand Theft Auto*] series is probably my favorite.

AC: Now that you've been crowned Austin's least-eligible bachelor, what's next for Chris McMinn?

CM: Wow. Good question. I guess we'll have to wait and see. Maybe I'll meet a woman out of this or a car dealership will sponsor me. Maybe I will star in a Natty commercial. I have acting experience. Who knows, maybe even a reality show starring Austin's very own Bachelor?

AC: More importantly, will you upgrade from Natty now?

CM: Don't you blaspheme.

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— Carter Lund

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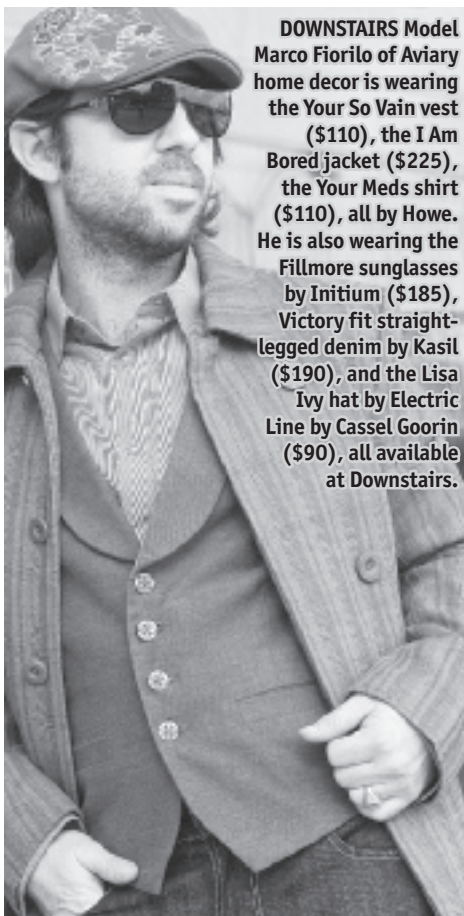
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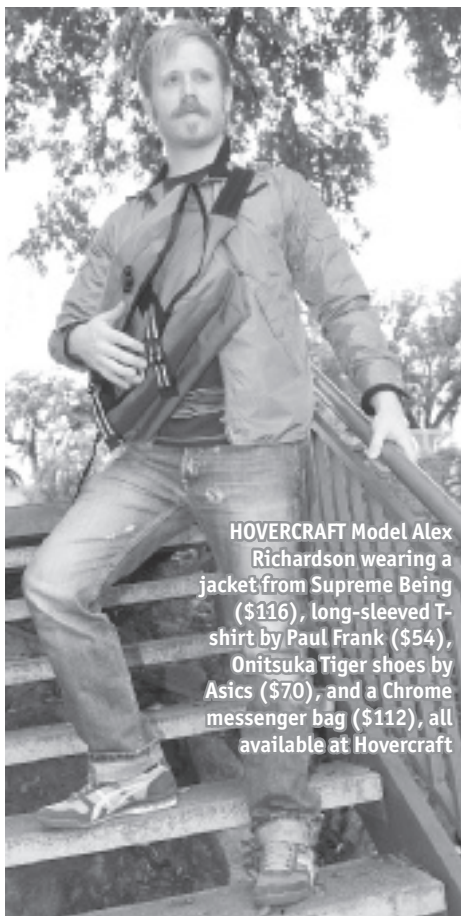
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AFTER A FASHION

BY STEPHEN MACMILLAN MOSER



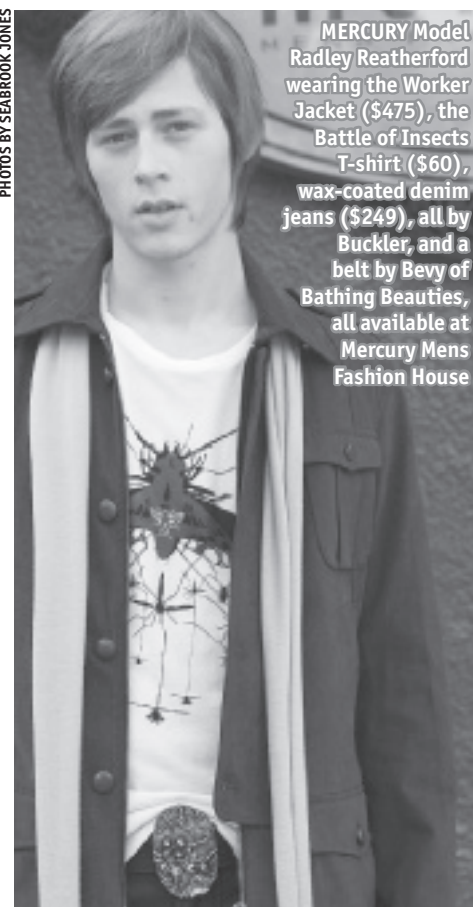
DOWNSTAIRS Model Marco Fiorio of Aviary home decor is wearing the Your So Vain vest (\$110), the I Am Bored jacket (\$225), the Your Meds shirt (\$110), all by Howe. He is also wearing the Fillmore sunglasses by Initium (\$185), Victory fit straight-legged denim by Kasil (\$190), and the Lisa Ivy hat by Electric Line by Cassel Goorin (\$90), all available at Downstairs.



HOVERCRAFT Model Alex Richardson wearing a jacket from Supreme Being (\$116), long-sleeved T-shirt by Paul Frank (\$54), Onitsuka Tiger shoes by Asics (\$70), and a Chrome messenger bag (\$112), all available at Hovercraft



BLACKMAIL Model Aaron Barrera in a Lucky 13 argyle sweater (\$66), Etzo shirt (\$58), Tres Noir sunglasses (\$86), and vintage cowboy boots (\$150), all available at Blackmail



MERCURY Model Radley Reatherford wearing the Worker Jacket (\$475), the Battle of Insects T-shirt (\$60), wax-coated denim jeans (\$249), all by Buckler, and a belt by Bevy of Bathing Beauties, all available at Mercury Mens Fashion House

PHOTOS BY SEABROOK JONES

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48 STAFF OF LIFE
53 RESTAURANT ROULETTE

THANKSGIVING WINES

Pairing wines with the Thanksgiving feast is always a challenge. First, the rich foods require wines with cleansing acidity. Then there are the abundant flavors – both sweet and savory – that demand chameleon wines. Here's one rule to remember: Anytime you're confused over what wine will work with a food, the answer is always **Champagne**.

The bubbles will clear your palate, tickle your nose, and make any gathering an event. And because the winemakers pick the grapes while still very young, the wines have plenty of acidity. Anything from vegetarian casseroles to massive hunks of red meat will match up perfectly with sparkling wine. Four great American sparkling wines worth searching out in terms of value for the quality and availability: Korbel Brut Rosé (\$10), Gruet Blanc de Noirs (\$13), Gloria Ferrer Brut Sonoma County (\$15), and J Cuvée 20 (\$30). In each case, the step up in price provides a better wine. If you feel like splurging, my pick for the best Champagne under \$100 is Bollinger (\$45), which would be a bargain at twice the price.

Riesling is another chameleon wine. The German style is gentle with a hint of sugar left in to blunt the intense acidity. While you can spend astronomical amounts on a German Riesling, our recently approved Seeberger Riesling Box Wine (\$16 for 3 liters, the equivalent of four bottles) makes a great party wine. In Alsace, they make Riesling big enough to stand up to pig trotters and sauerkraut. And while some Alsatian winemakers are pursuing the international market, I love the stubborn adherence to tradition at Trimbach winery. No global style for them. Their lowest priced Riesling runs about \$20, but if you'd like a taste of greatness, stretch for the Trimbach Cuvée Frédéric Émile Riesling (\$48).

Just about any red wine works for Thanksgiving. Zinfandel, Merlot, Cabernet, Pinot Noir – all make great choices. But this year, why not try a **Syrah**? It's a bold, fruity, mouth-filling wine guaranteed to work with turkey, ham, dressing, sweet potatoes, or anything else you want to throw at it. The only downside is you have to pay a little more to get a good version. Bridlewood Cellars in the U.S. makes several levels of Syrah, but their Central Coast Syrah (\$19) is the best combo of quality and value. If you're thinking about getting more than one bottle of red, get Peter Lehmann's Barossa Shiraz (\$18), and taste the difference between American and Australian versions of the same grape.

All of these wines should be available at better wineshops, except the Seeberger Riesling, which is only at HEB.

– Wes Marshall



2007 THUNDERCLOUD SUBS TURKEY TROT

Looking for something to keep all those visiting family members busy on Thanksgiving morning while the feast is in the oven? How about some exercise to work up an appetite? The 17th annual ThunderCloud Subs Turkey Trot has something for every skill level: The **five-mile run** starts in Waterloo Park and winds through the University of Texas campus, Hyde Park neighborhood, and then back Downtown; a **one-mile walk** and **Stepping Stone School Kid's K** take place in Waterloo Park. Pick up race registration forms at your favorite ThunderCloud location or online at www.thundercloud.com, or register early on the morning of the race. All race proceeds benefit the food pantry at Caritas of Austin, a nonprofit that provides food and shelter to the working poor and homeless. – V.B.W.

Thursday, Nov. 22, 7:30-9:45am.

EVENT MENU NOV. 23-26

► Shop for distinctive wine, lavender, and culinary-themed gift items at **Becker Vineyards** (three miles west of Stonewall, off Highway 290 West; 830/644-2681) annual **Christmas in the Vineyard** event. Nov. 23-25: Friday, noon-6pm; Saturday, 10am-6pm; Sunday, noon-6pm.

► Legendary UT football coach **Darrell K. Royal** will serve as grand marshal of the **Chuy's** annual **Children Giving to Children Parade**. Bring the family out to see the five gigantic inflatable parade balloons (Strawberry Shortcake, Bob the Builder, Hello Kitty, the Coke Polar Bear, and Oscar the Grouch), famous children's characters, marching bands, floats carrying **Ray Benson & Asleep at the Wheel**, **Zach Scott's Rockin' Christmas Party** singers and dancers, beloved children's entertainers **Joe McDermott** and **Sara Hickman**, and **Santa Claus** himself. The parade begins at the Capitol, progresses down Congress Avenue, turns west on Sixth, and ends at Guadalupe. The procession will come to a halt near the end to allow spectators to donate toys that will be distributed by **Blue**

Santa during the holiday season. For more info on the parade and the kinds of toys needed, go to www.chuysparade.com. Saturday, Nov. 24, 11am.

► The holiday season is the perfect time to learn about pairing malty craft-brewed beers with fine chocolates. **North by Northwest Restaurant & Brewery** (10010 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 467-6969) director of brewing education **Mary Thompson** will explain the complexities of pairing beer with exquisite, hand-crafted chocolate truffles prepared by Executive Chef **George Powell**. \$35 per person, reservations suggested. Monday, Nov. 26, 7pm. – V.B.W.

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FOOD-O-FILE

BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

The **pear bread** is back! **Miles Compton's** delicious pear-ginger tea bread topped with sliced almonds is back in stores for the holidays. Enjoy it lightly toasted as part of a holiday breakfast, or serve slices alongside steaming cups of midafternoon tea or coffee. Look for it at **Central Market**, **Whole**

Foods Market, and **Boggy Creek Farm**... Another worthwhile holiday treat is the new **turkey mole taco** that is the holiday special at **Torchy's Tacos** (1207 S. First, 366-0537) – turkey tenders are

lightly battered and deep-fried, then wrapped in tortillas with a tasty *mole* sauce, a little Mexican rice, and a slice of avocado – another real winner... The folks at **Kerbey Lane Cafe** (four locations around town) are justifiably proud of their brand-new website –

www.kerbeylanecafe.com – which includes info on their new fall menu (Moroccan lamb, pecan-crusted pork chops, pumpkin pancakes, and more), all the scoop about their holiday gift baskets (new 1-pound packages of their signature pancake mixes paired with other Texas artisan foods), plus everything you need to know about their catering operation. Look for their pancake mixes at all area HEB stores, Whole Foods, Central Market, and Grape Vine Market... If you're interested in a meat-free

Thanksgiving feast but not sure where to go for information, check out the vast array of options, information, and Web links at

www.gentlethanksgiving.org... The owners of **Z'Tejas Southwestern Grill** have chosen to celebrate the opening of their new Avery Ranch outlet (10525 W. Parmer, 388-7772) by serving a Thanksgiving feast to 500 servicemen and -women returning to Fort Hood from their recent deployment in Iraq. The troops and their families will arrive at the new restaurant in buses for **Operation Turkey Day** and enjoy a menu designed especially for them by corporate chef **Jack Gilmore**...

The busy bakers at **Sweet Tempered** (825-3663, www.sweettemperedaustin.com) can help you with those holiday baking chores – look for examples of their holiday cookie boxes, miniature holiday gift cakes, and various flavors of holiday cupcakes on their website...

We are lucky to have some of the best gelato in this country at **Teo Espresso, Gelato & Bella Vita** (26 Doors Shopping Center, 1206 W. 38th, 451-9555; Tech Ridge Shopping Center, 500 W. Canyon Ridge Rd., 339-1836), and what could be better than to have pints (\$6.75, serves five) or quarts (\$10, serves 10) of that marvelous frozen delight delivered fresh to your door during the holidays? Think about pairing bourbon vanilla or *dulce de leche* gelato with pecan pie, gingersnap gelato with pumpkin pie, or choosing a medley of fruit sorbetto for a light dairy and fat-free holiday dessert. Stop by the stores, or call in your order, and they'll explain delivery details and costs... **Steve Savina**, one of the founding partners of Austin's Grape Vine Market (7938 Great Northern Blvd., 323-5900; 2400 S. I-35 #260, Round Rock, 512/248-9933) has left the company to pursue new career opportunities in the Rio Grande Valley. After eight years at Grape Vine, Steve will be sharing his abiding passions for distinctive wines, good single-malt scotch, and fine cigars with a South Texas regional liquor-store chain interested in diversifying their product lines. He will be sorely missed.

THE STAFF OF LIFE

Breads for the holidays PHOTOS BY TODD V. WOLFSON

The centerpiece of a holiday table is typically something visually impressive, like a golden-brown turkey spilling stuffing from its cavity or crown roast of pork sporting frilly paper panties on its rib bones. And sides usually consist of a combination of family favorites and one or two adventurous debuts. Beef or bird, green-bean casserole or brussels-sprouts chiffonade, the holiday meal is anchored by bread. Well, almost all meals are anchored by bread, aren't they? It ain't called a staple for nothing. The sideboard can be groaning under bowls of potatoes, platters of vegetables, and plates of dessert, but despite the bounty, diners will always inquire, "Where's the bread?"

Even if one's typical dinner bread comes out of a plastic bag and is blinding white, at the holidays we like to up the game a bit. And no one likes to up their game at the holidays more than bakers. Anticipating the approaching holidays, the Food staff checked with local bakers to find out what form of the staff of life will take on their tables. Some have even opened up their recipe books and shared the secrets of their favorite breads. It's enough to make you want to skip the spuds to add an extra bread to your meal.

— Barbara Chisholm



Varied Delights, Texas French Bread and Whole Foods

Texas French Bread baker Ben Wilcott's passion for baking reveals itself with every "I'm really excited about," and then he's off describing a loaf or a recipe. Not surprisingly, Wilcott plans on having several bread offerings at his holiday meals. "We'll have rustic rolls, small individual versions of our ciabatta [85 cents each, \$5 for a dozen]. And mini whole-wheat rolls [50 cents each]. And emmies. They're soft, silver-dollar rolls [50 cents]." But he's not done yet. He plans on doing something with sourdough for the appetizer course. "Oh! And pecan raisin rolls, too [85 cents, \$8.95 for a dozen]!" They're a holiday offering that works well with many of the traditional offerings of the holidays such as turkey and sweet potatoes. It's a busy time at TFB, with seasonal tea breads, tarts, and desserts being cranked out. Ordering in advance is recommended.

The same advice applies to Allen Sanden who works at Whole Foods, where loaves of the seasonal Harvest Cranberry Bread (\$3.99) are being pulled from the oven. It sounds like a tea bread, but the loaf is an elongated hearth bread, yeasty and crusty. "It's great for pairing with wine and cheese," Sanden observes, so it can start off the meal. In addition to cranberries, the bread is studded with apricots and walnuts — sounds like it could make a tasty stuffing. And it's an ideal bookend for leftover sandwiches, unless you go for the scrumptious and singular SeDUCTION Loaf (\$3.99). The bread is loaded with a multitude of seeds and has a slightly sweet taste and a toothsome texture that toasts up beautifully. Your turkey sandwich will rise above the mundane with this bread.

— B.C.

Schiacciata All'Uva, Sweetish Hill

While I generally prefer breads to be simple and unadorned (the better to pair with cheeses, meats, or spreads), I absolutely love the Tuscan flat-bread called *schacciata all'uva* (flat-bread with grapes) prepared by Sweetish Hill co-owner Jim Murphy, who firmly describes himself as "a baker — not a pastry chef, a baker."

Schiacciata (pronounced skee-ah-CHA-ta) means smashed or flattened, and this bread is a flatter, denser cousin to focaccia. The slightly

sweet schiacciata all'uva, studded with juicy grapes and redolent with rosemary, is traditionally prepared during autumn grape-harvest time.

At the request of Austin food and garden maven Lucinda Hutson, Murphy developed his recipe several years ago for an Italian event at the Texas Hill Country Wine & Food Festival. "I basically started with a ciabatta dough, and it evolved into a whole-wheat ciabatta. The steam of the oven tends to melt the coarse sugar and seems to infuse the dough with rose-

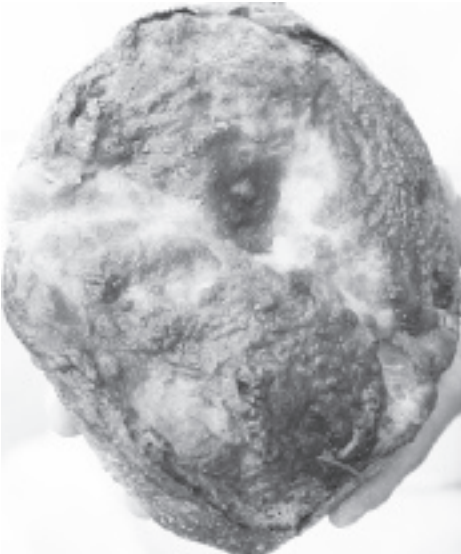
Sun-Dried Tomato and Mozzarella Bread, Mandola's Italian Market

All the breads that emerge from the Italian stone-hearth oven at Mandola's Italian Market are exceptional, but in my opinion, the best (and certainly the most unusual) is the amazingly flavorful, beautifully textured sun-dried tomato and mozzarella loaf (\$5.25) developed by Mandola's head baker, Jesus "Chuy" Guevara.

Guevara began his career at his father's bakery in Puebla, Mexico, before immigrating to Houston, where he worked at some of that city's best bakeries. He studied artisan-bread baking at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y., and moved to Austin three years ago to open and run the bakery at Mandola's.

To create this bread, Guevara started with a sourdough base. "I added olive oil and extra salt, and that was good," he recalls. "Then I thought about sun-dried tomatoes and rosemary, and it was better. Next, I put mozzarella in the bread dough, but it changed the texture. So I put all the cheese on top instead, and everybody liked it. That was about a year and a half ago," he says, and it's been a popular item on the bread menu ever since.

The result is a supremely moist, herby loaf, infused with rosemary, laden with small



chunks of sun-dried tomato, and supporting a wide, mozzarella-filled fissure along the top. Either room temperature or warmed, it's practically a meal by itself, but it also makes a nice accompaniment for a salad or an Italian-esque meal. I've used slices to make stellar roast-beef sandwiches, and I bet it would make beautiful sliced-pork, turkey, or meatloaf sandwiches, too.

— MM Pack

My Blue Ribbon Carrot-Nut Bread

It all started like this. Twenty-five years ago, I had the crazy notion that I wanted to make a carrot cake. Back then I had no idea about how to bake anything, but I did have a deeply entrenched belief that if a little is good, a lot is better. I have to admit, I did use a lot of carrots.

When my wife, Emily, came in and saw the huge pile of carrots, she immediately accused me of profligacy in squandering all those groceries. Jaw set, I told her I was going to do it my way, and, guess what, the cake was flawless: moist, flavorful, with just the slightest crispiness to the top. Not only did she make an apology that would make a priest proud, she announced that she was going to enter my cake at the State Fair of Texas.

A few months later, we were in her parents' Dallas house, making multiple cakes, searching for perfection. We finally had two gorgeous layers, but we also had about a pound and a half of batter left over, just enough to make a loaf of carrot-nut bread. When we pulled it out of the oven, it was the embodiment of gorgeous perfection, so we made a last-minute decision to enter it in the bread category.

When we arrived early the next morning, the line for the baked goods judging was in the hundreds. And I was the only man! We wandered off for a cup of coffee. When we returned, my cake was up on a shelf, and my loaf was on a table. Emily asked one of the volunteers what was going on. "Well," he said, "the things on the shelves aren't in the running." We felt that sinking feeling you get when you lose. Emily asked the volunteer what it meant to be on the table. "Oh, those are Best in Class. Those things are all in the running for Best in Show."

Our screams scared the hell out of everyone within 100 yards. We were properly shushed and waited out the final judging. I didn't win Best in Show, but I did get the blue ribbon for Best Nut Bread. Sometimes a lot really is better.

— Wes Marshall

RECIPE:		
1 cup flour	3 ounces slivered almonds, chopped	Grate carrots. Blend flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, salt, and sugar. Mix in the oil and egg. Then blend in the nuts and carrots. Put mixture in a greased and floured bread pan. Bake at 325 degrees until a nail in the middle comes out clean, about 50-55 minutes.
1 teaspoon baking powder	1 pound carrots, peeled and grated	
1 teaspoon baking soda	2/3 cup peanut oil	
1 teaspoon cinnamon	1 cup sugar	
1/2 teaspoon salt	1 egg, slightly beaten	
3 ounces walnuts, chopped		

mary. I prefer the very large, dark grapes, better if seedless; the bigger the better, because they tend to burst in the oven." And what makes this bread so special? Murphy says, "The unique combination of a whole-wheat ciabatta with that sweet taste of a mild but long fermentation, blended with the sweet, syrupy taste of the rosemary." I say it's the marriage of sweet, salt, and herbs in a dense, wheat flat-bread.

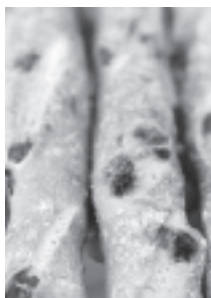
Be aware that you must order schiacciata all'uva 24 hours in advance from Sweetish Hill.



It's available in a 1-pound, 12x17-inch flat-bread (\$4) or a 3-pound, 12x14-inch loaf (\$8). — MM.P

Ficelle, Central Market

More than a loaf of bread, Central Market's prosciutto-peppercorn *ficelle* is an addiction. Introduced to the CM bakery around 1996 by French master baker Edouard Damez, it has remained one of their most popular breads, and for good reason. I hardly ever go there and leave without one of these treats. Be warned that this is not the kind of bread one can use to make sandwiches or toast for breakfast but more like a rustic snack. It weighs only 8 ounces and is thinner and slightly shorter than an average baguette, resembling an oversized bread stick (after all, *ficelle* means "string" in French.) According to CM baker Paul Dougherty, its divine golden, crispy crust and



chewy texture are achieved by baking it very fast in a hearth oven. This is actually their only bread that contains meat: Studded with tiny cubes of prosciutto and generously dotted with coarse cracked black peppercorns, every bite is an explosion of spicy, nutty, salty bliss. It's all I can do to make the short drive home and not eat the whole thing in the car, especially if I make the crucial mistake of going to Central Market hungry.

But if there's any left when I get home, I like to cut it in bite-size, diagonal slices and serve it along with cheeses, cured meats, olives, roasted tomatoes, and pickled veggies as a light snacky supper. It is also fantastic as accompaniment to a green salad or a cup of a creamy vegetable soup. — *Claudia Alarcón*

continued on p.50

Fannie 'Ma' House's Biscuits

The smell of Ma's incredible biscuits baking is what woke me up when I'd spend the night at my grandmother's house in the country. I could hear her rustling around in the kitchen making breakfast. By the time I'd run in there, the thick homegrown bacon was hitting the cast-iron pan, followed shortly by the yard eggs. An overnight stay at my grandparents' country house in East Texas was, for me, a step way back in time from the modern life of 1950s Bryan.

Ma's biscuits were more technique than recipe. A large wooden bowl, her "biscuit bowl," held flour all the time. When the daily batch of biscuits was to be made, she would cut in some lard or shortening and grab one of the crocks from the dining table that held that day's milk – real milk loaded with butterfat, straight from the cow. She'd pour from the creamy buttery top until she had just the right amount and then throw in a big pinch of baking soda, a bit of baking powder, a dab of salt, and hand-mix it into a dough. In no time she had patted out a pan full and popped them into the oven.

I'd hover at the table, waiting for them to emerge golden brown, with the aroma driving me crazy. I'd break one open, slather it

with sweet home-churned butter, and top one side with her ambrosial fig preserves and the other with her amazing dewberry jam – the best biscuits ever. — *Mick Vann*

RECIPE:

Although my mother, an excellent cook, watched my grandmother make the scratch buttermilk biscuits hundreds, if not thousands, of times, she was never able to duplicate them. Ma, after all, was using buttermilk that you can't buy in a store, and she knew the proper ratios by touch. This is a reasonable modern-day facsimile, but there will never be biscuits as good as my grandmother used to make.

2 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon sugar
Pinch of salt
2 teaspoons baking powder
¼ teaspoon baking soda
⅓ cup oil
1 cup buttermilk

Combine all dry ingredients, and mix thoroughly. Stir in oil. Add buttermilk, and mix just to combine well. Dump dough out onto a floured surface, and pat into a half-inch layer. Use a 2½-inch round to cut dough into biscuits. Place into an oiled and sifted 9-inch round baking pan. Bake at 450 degrees for 20-25 minutes or until the tops are golden brown.



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Grandma Dottie’s Oatmeal Bread

I think it’s safe to say that the experience of coming in from the cold and being greeted by the smell of fresh bread baking in the oven is an archetypal ideal, beguiling enough to entice most people to attempt it at least once. In my case, my first bread experiment resulted in two fragrant yet coarse and inedible bricks, and I immediately gave up. (Because, you know, you don’t have to make bread; they’ve got it at the store.)

Twenty years later, my friend Brian Beattie gave me a loaf of Grandma Dottie’s Oatmeal Bread as a gift. (The recipe is from the kitchen of his maternal grandmother, Dorothy Wilson McElroy, who frequently made it for her grandchildren when they visited her in the summer.) It was so satisfying and hauntingly memorable that it became my favorite present. After a year or so of only getting to have it when Brian felt like making it, I dimly (and moronically) realized that if I could just get past the trauma of my early bread failure, I could make it for myself whenever I wanted!

It came out perfect the very first time: tall and stately, with a light crumb and amazing depth of flavor. This marvelous bread seems to have a healing and addictive effect on everyone who tries it (most notably cookbook author Didi Emmons, who included it in her book *Vegetarian Planet*). It’s a dark bread, outwardly resembling a loaf of rye, but the flavor is sweet and wheaty, perfect for sandwiches, toast, and eating plain with butter.

Because my initial “flop” bread-making experience is such a common one, I’ve broken down the recipe into elaborately explained, this-cannot-possibly-fail steps. – *Kate Thornberry*

GRANDMA DOTTIE’S OATMEAL BREAD: STEP-BY-STEP FOOLPROOF INSTRUCTIONS

This recipe will make two loaves, so have two loaf pans. Also, bake bread on a day when you are going to be home all day. It’s hard to predict how long things will take (like dough rising), and it’s just better to know you can be relaxed about it. After all, this is probably something you are doing for fun, so don’t set yourself up to get stressed.

- 2 cups rolled oats (regular, not “quick” or “instant”)
- 2 cups boiling water
- 1 cup scalded milk or unsalted soy milk
- 1 tablespoon canola or corn oil
- ⅔ cup molasses
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 package dry yeast (1 tablespoon)
- 6-8 cups unbleached flour (You can use half whole-wheat flour if you want; I do.)
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 2 tablespoons butter (for greasing pans)

- 1) In the bowl of your stand mixer, combine the 2 cups of oats and the 2 cups of boiling water. Put the dough hook on. Put it on speed one or two, and let it stir around in a desultory fashion while you get your other ingredients assembled.
- 2) Assemble the rest of the ingredients. Add the scalded milk to the oatmeal mixture. I’m too lazy to scald milk, so I use cold soy milk. Add the molasses and the oil.
- 3) This step is very important! Allow the mixture in the mixer bowl to become room temperature. Room temperature means that when you stick your finger in it, it doesn’t feel warm to you. At all. (Turn the mixer off, and go do something else for a while if you used hot milk; it takes awhile for the scalded milk to cool.)
- 4) In another bowl, mix the sugar, 1 cup of the flour, and the yeast. Stir it around. Add to the thoroughly cooled oatmeal mixture, and stir.
- 5) Add the salt. (Don’t forget!)
- 6) Add the remaining 5 cups of flour. When thoroughly mixed, if the dough is not pulling away from the sides of the mixing bowl, just keep adding more flour until it does. On a humid day, it might take 9 cups of flour. Add it by the half-cup, and after each addition, let it mix in. When the dough has enough flour, it will pull away from the sides, leaving them clean. Turn your mixer up to a medium speed: This will cause it to labor horribly and

probably “walk” across the counter, or the floor, making a dreadful mechanical din. The dough hook will just sort of be stirring in the middle with occasional “thumps.”

You only want this to keep kneading (for that is what it is doing once it starts thumping) for a minute or two, because your mixer won’t be able to take this for very long. If your mixer starts to smell hot, turn it off immediately. It really doesn’t take long, one or two minutes. (If you’re kneading by hand, just knead the dough for as long as you feel like. It gets satiny when it’s done.)

7) Take the dough hook out, and squeeze the somewhat sticky dough off it. Get a clean kitchen towel, make it totally wet, and then squeeze it out. Now it is completely damp. Drape it over the top of the mixing bowl, and set it in a warm place. (In Texas, most of the year, every place is a warm place. Anywhere where it is between 70 and 100 degrees is fine. It doesn’t need to be an artificially hot place like a warming oven.) The bread dough will double in bulk. When it looks like it has doubled (this takes anywhere from an hour to three hours but usually closer to an hour), it’s time to make the loaves.

- 8) Turn your oven on to 350 degrees.
- 9) Take your bread pans and generously butter them.
- 10) Pull the dough out of the bowl, and using a sharp knife, cut it in half. Take one half, and using your hands, stretch it out (by pressing on it) into a rectangle shape, about a foot in length. The dough will be sticky but not terribly so, and it will deflate when you do this, and that is fine.

Roll the dough up like a jelly roll. Plop it in a loaf pan with the “seam” side down. Do the same to the other half.

Cover the bread pans with the towel. It should still be dampish from before. In 30 minutes, the dough should double in bulk again, and the loaves will look like loaves. Sometimes I forget about them at this point, and they rise too much, but it never seems to hurt them.

11) Put them in the oven as close to the middle of the oven as your shelves allow. Bake for 45 minutes to an hour. Your whole house will fill with the heavenly smell of fresh bread. When it’s done, the outer crust is kind of hard-seeming and delightfully crisp. As it cools, it softens up again.

La Brea Loaves, Grape Vine Market ▶

Nancy Silverton’s La Brea Bakery in Los Angeles was one of the prime movers in the American artisan-bread movement of the 1990s. After several years of baking success, Silverton developed a process whereby her exemplary breads could be partially baked, flash-frozen, and packaged for wholesale to stores and restaurants. All that was necessary was to thaw the loaves, bake them according to the package directions, and then enjoy bread that was virtually indistinguishable from the best commercial artisan loaf available. With plants on both coasts cranking out frozen versions of her signature in-store bread line, the wholesale division flourished. The first time I bought a freshly baked loaf of La Brea Roasted Garlic Sourdough bread at Grape Vine Market, the aroma was so tantalizing I had to pull the car over and break into it before I could get it home. Silverton sold the wholesale bread operation to an Irish conglomerate some years ago for an enormous amount of money, but the quality remains impressive. I recently purchased a selection of frozen La Brea loaves at the Grape Vine Market deli, baking some for home enjoyment and sharing others with bread-loving friends. The crisp crust still crackles, the bread inside it is still hearty and substantial, and the yeasty aroma of bread baking in the kitchen is intoxicating. Grape Vine Market carries the full line of La Brea Bakery frozen bread loaves, ranging in price from 99 cents for a demibaguette to \$3.99 for the sourdough or roasted garlic and \$4.99 for the olive bread. It’s the busy baker’s path to bread nirvana. – *Virginia B. Wood*



Bolillos, El Fénix

Honestly, I am not much of a bread person. In fact, I rarely serve bread with meals, and I hardly ever eat it, unless it’s in sandwich form or as the vehicle for something tasty like pâté or homemade marmalade. But I am, after all, a Mexican, and we Mexicans love our *bolillos*. A basketful is always present at the Mexican table and usually greets diners upon arrival at restaurants throughout the country, much like Texas’ ubiquitous chips and salsa. These days, a number of bakeries in Austin make them, but I found that none is able to reproduce the exact consistency, crust, and texture of a real Mexican bolillo. That is, until I discovered El Fénix Bakery at 6616 S. Congress.

Manuel Flores – originally from the state of Coahuila – and his wife, Beverly, run this tiny operation on South Congress, near the corner of William Cannon. They make the most authentic and delicious Mexican pastries in town, and their bolillos and *teleras* are the real deal. They have a light, crunchy crust and a moist interior that’s not crumbly but soft and fluffy and comes out in one piece when pulled off. This leaves a nice cavity in which to stuff all manners of fillings,

Aunt Ruby’s Cinnamon Rolls

If I was really lucky when staying up at my grandparents’ house, Aunt Ruby would drop by with some of her yeasty, sweet, and buttery cinnamon rolls, which were a modification of her dinner rolls. Any event of the House family today must be accompanied by a large tray of Ruby Keeling’s heavenly cinnamon rolls. Like most of the recipes from way back then, Ruby’s recipe isn’t quite as detailed as we expect a recipe to be today. – *Mick Vann*

DINNER ROLL DOUGH RECIPE:

- 2 cups lukewarm water
 - 1 cup sugar
 - 2 packages Fleischmann’s Dry Yeast
 - ¾ cup vegetable oil
 - 1 teaspoon salt
 - 2 eggs, slightly beaten
- Flour: “enough to make the dough stiff enough to handle. Do not knead as much as when making bread. It should be stiffer than a biscuit dough.”
- Combine the water, sugar, and yeast, and mix well. Cover the bowl with a dishcloth, and let it sit until it activates. In a large bowl, mix together the yeast starter, oil, salt, eggs, and flour. Work the dough into a big ball, and place it into a greased bowl (a 1½-gallon milk crock is good). Lightly oil

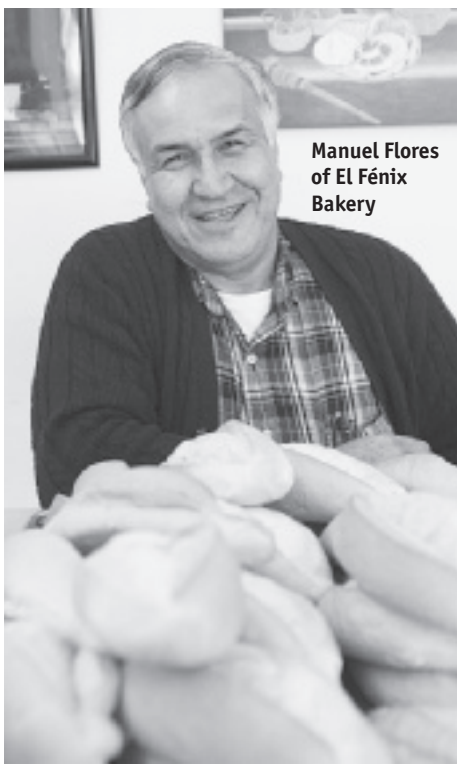
the top of the dough, cover, and put in a warm place to rise twice its size. Punch down with your hands (it’s okay if it flows over), and let rise a second time. Pinch off the amount of dough you want for one meal’s worth of dinner rolls, work it down a little, and then pinch off rolls. Place in a greased pan, let rise in a warm place, and bake at 350 degrees.

Note: The rolls will have a better flavor if the dough is made two or three days in advance; the dough will keep in the refrigerator for at least a week.

CINNAMON ROLL RECIPE:

- 1 batch dinner roll dough, refrigerated 2-3 days
 - Butter, melted
 - Sugar
 - Cinnamon
 - Powdered sugar
 - Melted butter
 - Vanilla
 - Milk
- Divide dough into four balls. Roll each ball into a rectangle on a floured surface. Brush the surface liberally with butter, sprinkle on sugar and cinnamon, and roll up like a jelly roll and slice into rolls about ½- to ¾-inch thick. Pinch or roll the edges (so that they don’t stick), and place into a greased pan. Bake at 350 degrees. While still warm, ice them with an icing made of powdered sugar, butter, vanilla, and enough milk to make an icing.

and since the bolillos are just the right size, one can make a proper torta in no time. If for some reason they are not consumed while fresh, they can be dried to make bread crumbs of an excellent consistency. Thanks to El Fénix, I will no longer be homesick for a real bolillo. — C.A.



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BURGER JOINT: HUT'S HAMBURGERS The legend rests not on its laurels but often atop beef eaters' picks for Best Burger. Famous for their two-for-one specials. 807 W. Sixth, 472-0693. \$

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: KT'S DELI Housed in the bottom floor of the William R. Clements Jr. Building, this cafeteria-style eatery boasts good food and low prices. Open for breakfast and lunch. 300 W. 15th, 495-9313. \$

FINE DINING: STEAKHOUSE: RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE Nationally recognized steak house in a historic Austin building. Good steaks and à la carte side dishes, plus stock-market quotes for the business crowd. 107 W. Sixth, 477-7884. \$\$\$

FINE DINING: ANCHO'S RESTAURANT This pleasant dining room in the atrium of the Omni Hotel offers a Southwestern menu and a dynamite Sunday brunch with waffle and omelet stations. 701 Brazos, 320-5858. \$\$\$

FINE DINING: DRISKILL GRILLE A grand and sophisticated experience you can proudly share with the most exacting Manhattanite. Housed in the ornate Driskill Hotel, the Grill is home to soon-to-be-celebrity-chef David Bull's imaginative cuisine that is hardly economical but certainly a value. 604 Brazos, 391-7162. www.driskillgrill.com. \$\$\$

INTERIOR MEXICAN: MANUEL'S Somehow Manuel's manages to be chic and casual at the same time. It continues to be our favorite place for value-priced drinks and appetizers. Look for live music on Sundays. 310 Congress, 472-7555. www.manuels.com. \$\$\$

ITALIAN, PIZZA: BRICK OVEN RESTAURANT Serves some of the best home-style, thin-crust pizzas with a personal touch. 1209 Red River, 477-7006. www.brickovenrestaurant.com. \$\$\$

ITALIAN: SPAGHETTI WAREHOUSE This kid-tested, mother-approved Italian restaurant is a surefire hit with the munchkins. The generous portions are anything but child's play. 117 W. Fourth, 476-4059. www.meatballs.com. \$\$\$

JAPANESE: KYOTO This elder statesman of Japanese restaurants offers scrumptious sushi and other Asian fare. The basics in Japanese cuisine, but don't expect surprises. 315 Congress, 482-9010. www.kyotodowntown.com. \$\$\$

PUB GRUB: 219 WEST An attractive, comfortable place with exceptional small-dish food, great drinks, and a stunning wine list. 219 W. Fourth, 474-2194. www.219west.com. \$\$\$

TEX-MEX: COPA BAR & GRILL Popular Latin dance club features drinks, eats, live salsa and merengue on Fridays, plus a Saturday DJ. 217 Congress, 479-5002. www.copabarandgrill.com. \$

EAST

AMERICAN CAFE, FRENCH: BLUE DAHLIA BISTRO Visit this casual and cool spot for a cafe au lait, a cheese plate and wine, or a luscious open-faced tartine. Tasty and beautifully presented sandwiches, salads, soups, coffees, desserts, and breakfasts. 1115 E. 11th, 542-9542. \$

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: BOSSA NOVA BAKERY & CAFE The menu is inspired by Brazilian cuisine and features vegetable-packed "natural style" sandwiches, as well as a full lunch menu; don't pass up the fresh baked goods. 2121 E. Sixth, 478-8700. www.bossanovaustin.com. \$

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: QUACK'S MAPLEWOOD BAKERY Find the same great pastry and sandwich offerings as the Hyde Park location, as well as the addition of grilled sandwiches and pizzas. 1400 E. 38½, 538-1991. \$

BARBECUE: SAM'S BBQ Late-night hours make this spot popular with jazz musicians, but the great barbecue keeps folks of every occupation coming back any time of the day or night. 2000 E. 12th, 478-0378. \$

INTERIOR MEXICAN, TEX-MEX: EL CHILE CAFE Y CANTINA The bill of fare features some Tex-Mex dishes, several Interior specialties, and a number of good vegetarian options. 1809 Manor Rd., 457-9900. www.elchilecafe.com. \$\$

INTERIOR MEXICAN, TEX-MEX: EL POLLO REGIO The pollo asado is served with borracho beans, tortillas, grilled onions, tomato salsa, and lime wedges, plus a scrumptious green avocado salsa. 6615 Berkman, 933-9557. www.elpolloregio.net. \$

INTERIOR MEXICAN: LAS PALMAS The food is honest and made with care, almost as if someone's grandmother prepared it at home. 1209 E. Seventh, 457-4944. \$

SEAFOOD, SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: MR. CATFISH Everything is made from scratch here. Catfish and seafood dinners with side dishes come in different sizes, depending on your appetite. 1075 Springdale, 927-6666. www.mrcatfish.com. \$

SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: HOOVER'S COOKING Dishing out huge portions of freshly cooked, Southern-style home cooking such as Jerk Pork Ribs, the Bella Muffaletta, and heavenly pork chops, this place remains a popular standby. 2002 Manor Rd., 479-5006. www.hooverscooking.com. \$\$

TEX-MEX: JOE'S BAKERY & COFFEE SHOP Belly up to the lunch counter for homemade migas, tacos, and award-winning menudo; then step up to the pastry counter for *piedras*, *novias*, *cemitas*, and *capirotada*. The American choices draw raves, as well. 2305 E. Seventh, 472-0017. \$

TEX-MEX: JUAN IN A MILLION One of our favorite "heart attack" breakfasts: gorditas with chorizo and fried eggs slathered with chile con queso. Arteries may harden around the room, but no one seems to care. 2300 E. Cesar Chavez, 472-3872. www.juaninamillion.com. \$\$

TEX-MEX: VIVO Affordable San Antonio-style Tex-Mex fare and margaritas on the decks. 2015 Manor, 482-0300. www.vivo-austin.com. \$\$

LAKE

CHINESE: PAO'S MANDARIN HOUSE Open 24 hours a day Monday-Friday, this Mandarin restaurant offers daily lunch and dinner specials. 2300 Lohman's Spur #134, 263-8869. \$

ITALIAN: CIOLA'S ITALIAN-AMERICAN RESTAURANT The sister restaurant of the Virginia-based original has been pleasing lake dwellers and Hill Country residents with its traditional Italian-American recipes. 1310 Hwy. 620 S., 263-9936. www.ciolas.com. \$\$\$

TEX-MEX: ROSIE'S TAMALE HOUSE With a quarter-century in Austin dishing out tamales and fajitas, they also boast homemade pralines. 13436 Hwy. 71 W., 263-5245. \$

NORTH

AFRICAN: T'S CAFE Go with a small army, and safari your way through the menu of tasty and exotic stews, starches, and appetizers. 15608 Springhill #102, 251-4432, 913-1095. \$

AMERICAN CAFE: NORTH BY NORTHWEST Start with a beer-tasting tray, and then move on to roasted-garlic bulbs with goat cheese. Be sure to save room for the bone-in pork loin, a dish that will make you proud to be a carnivore. 10010 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 467-6969. www.nxnwbrew.com. \$\$

CHINESE: DIN HO CHINESE BBQ A menu long on fresh seafood and meats, all authentically prepared, served, and priced. The best roast duck and *char siu* roast pork around. Get them to go, or eat them there. 8557 Research #116, 832-8788. \$

CHINESE: FIRST CHINESE BBQ The style of cooking is Cantonese, the interior is bright and clean, and the portions are generous. Look for a wide diversity of ingredients and delicious vegetarian options. 10901 N. Lamar #401, 835-8889. \$

ITALIAN: ITALIAN GARDEN RESTAURANT From the bowl of croutons on every table to the delicate herbal house dressing, they specialize in hearty southern Italian, "Brooklyn-style" fare. 14611 FM 1325, 388-1062. \$\$

JAPANESE: ODAKU Who would have thought a little, out-of-the-way restaurant would hold such treasures? We went straight for the *hamachi* and *uni*. What a pleasant surprise! 2501 W. Parmer #500, 834-9304. \$

SOUTHWESTERN: IRON CACTUS NORTH In addition to stacked enchiladas, the extensive menu offers hearty steak, chicken, and shrimp dishes treated with combinations of Southwestern and Interior-Mexican spices. 10001 Stonelake Blvd., 794-8778. www.ironcactus.com. \$

STEAKHOUSE: COOL RIVER CAFE Elegant steak house and grill with a ski-lodge atmosphere. Menu items have a Southwestern flair. Full bar available. 4001 Parmer, 835-0010. www.coolrivercafe.com. \$\$\$

VIETNAMESE: LE SOLEIL One of the original Sunflower folks brings us a similar menu with a few new tweaks. Bottom line: It's good and dependable, and it's a fave of Viet families. 9616 N. Lamar #156, 821-0396. \$

NORTH CENTRAL

AMERICAN CAFE, CHAIN: BENNIGAN'S The Irish-themed grill and tavern has a lengthy menu with something for just about everyone. 7604 N. I-35, 451-7953. www.bennigans.com. \$

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE Go for light fare such as cilantro-lamb wraps, sandwiches, salads, and pastries. Don't forget to wash it all down with a terrific coffee drink. 4600 Guadalupe, 380-0097. www.flipnotics.com. \$

continued on p.54



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food :: RESTAURANT ROULETTE :: FROM P.53

BURGER JOINT: BURGER TEX Build your own burger at this longtime, no-frills restaurant. 5420 Airport, 453-8772. www.burgertext.com. \$

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: JASON'S DELI The sandwich selection ranges from traditional deli to wraps and pita pockets, plus there are special menu sections dedicated to heart-healthy and kids' choices. 1000 E. 41st #940, 453-8666. www.jasonsdeli.com. \$\$

FINE DINING, ITALIAN: ASTI TRATTORIA For various Italian regional cuisines, and an extensive wine list of mostly Italian and Cal-Ital selections, try this Hyde Park corner spot. 408-C E. 43rd, 451-1218. www.astiaustin.com. \$\$\$

INDIAN: TAJ PALACE Austin's longest-established local Indian restaurant, where the royal court cuisine of North India is served in an attractive setting. 6700 Middle Fiskville, 452-9959. \$\$

PIZZA: THE PARLOR HYDE PARK The juke box may be different, but expect the same fresh, innovative pizzas at this new outpost of the popular punk parlor on North Loop. 4300 Guadalupe, 323-0440. \$

SEAFOOD: QUALITY SEAFOOD It's the place where all your favorite restaurants get their seafood, so you know it's the freshest. Hit the oyster bar for lunch or an early dinner. 5621 Airport, 454-5827. www.qualityseafoodmarket.com. \$

TEX-MEX: JULIO'S CAFE The vegetarian taco with perfectly grilled zucchini and summer squash is a favorite, along with the enchiladas, chalupas, and fajitas. 4230 Duval St., 452-1040. \$

VEGETARIAN/VEGAN: MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN A welcoming vegetarian refuge since 1979, the completely vegetarian menu is a mix of Southern and Tex-Mex and includes a soups, salads, and heartier fare. 4215 Duval, 451-3994. www.motherscafeastin.com. \$\$

SOUTH

AMERICAN CAFE: DOC'S MOTORWORKS BAR & GRILL The largest patio on the avenue is pure, laid-back South Austin. The queso is far better than most, light and creamy with tons of flavor and impossible not to finish. The burgers are big and tasty; the enchiladas and tacos are everything they should be. 1123 S. Congress, 448-9181. www.docsaustin.com. \$\$

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE, DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: CHANTILLY BAKERY CAFE Try Sandra Ojong's pastries for breakfast (or anytime), and come back for the wonderful sandwich selection at lunchtime. 4032 S. Lamar #200, 916-0404. www.chantilly-austin.com. \$

BARBECUE: AUSTIN'S BARBECUE What a feast. Ethereal pancakes, fluffy omelettes, homemade hashbrowns, and ancho-chile-spiked barbecue sauce compete with really wonderful hamburgers. Try the Chorizo Burger. Seriously. 6002 Burnleson, 382-2105. \$

BURGER JOINT: STEAK 'N SHAKE This 24-hour chain founded in 1934 is still serving those small burgers and hand-dipped shakes that everyone loves. Don't forget onion rings and the little crock of beans. 9300 S. I-35, 291-8095. www.steaknshake.com. \$

CAJUN/CREOLE: THE OLD ALLIGATOR GRILL Built to please with its Cajun-style specialties, generous happy hours, and Real Gator Meat. Plus, no cover charge for live blues. 3003 S. Lamar, 444-6117. www.alligatorgrill.com. \$\$

INTERIOR MEXICAN: SAZÓN With a grade of "A" for the chile relleno, you should feel adventurous for the rest of the menu. For fans of dishes made with the corn fungus *huitlacoche*, this place is a must. 1816 S. Lamar, 326-4395. www.sazonaustin.com. \$\$

SEAFOOD: CATFISH PARLOUR When the gang's hungry, take a crowd to eat in, or arrange to have them cater your next outdoor fish-fry. 4705 E. Ben White, 443-1698. www.catfishparlour.com. \$\$

SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: BROKEN SPOKE When you need your Lone Star cold, your chicken-fried steak hot, and the ghost of Ernest Tubb on your shoulder, the Spoke is it. 3201 S. Lamar, 442-6189. www.brokenspokeaustintx.com. \$\$

TEX-MEX: AZUL TEQUILA Offers both Tex-Mex dishes and interior specialties like *Albondigas en Chipotle* and *Enchiladas de Pipian*. Go with a crowd, listen to the music, and have some fun. 4211 S. Lamar, 416-9667. www.azultequila.com. \$\$

TEX-MEX: EL MESON TAQUERIA Plop down at the table with a Modelo and some fiery salsas while you wait on the tacos al carbon and chiles rellenos en *nogada* to arrive. 5808 Burnleson, 416-0749. \$\$

UT

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: TEXAS FRENCH BREAD Still the perfect places to duck in for a scone, pastry, and cup of coffee. Check out the sandwich menu for light lunch fare. 3213 Red River, 478-8794. www.texasfrenchbread.com. \$

BURGER JOINT, DELIVERY: PLUCKERS WING FACTORY & GRILL Who ya gonna call when you're craving good wings in the wee hours? These folks are frying and flying until 2am on weekdays and 3am on weekends. 2222 Rio Grande, 469-9464. www.pluckers.net. \$

FRENCH, JAPANESE: FUSE BOX Billed as "fun, fresh, Fusion," this spot serves up fresh salads such as cranberry with goat cheese and shrimp and melon. The bento boxes are varied and reasonably priced. 2025 Guadalupe (Dobie Mall, first floor), 236-0207. \$

JAPANESE: SUSHI NICHU EXPRESS This no-frills sushi spot will satisfy your wasabi cravings. Be sure to stop next door for Momoko's Bubble Tea. 705 W. 24th, 469-0086. \$\$

MIDDLE EASTERN: GYRO KING They carve your spiced meat from one of those rotating triangles. A take on the sandwich beyond the ordinary. 2021 Guadalupe (Dobie Mall, second floor), 479-6222. \$

PIZZA: MANGIA CHICAGO STUFFED PIZZA Delectable and deceptively filling stuffed pizza at a reasonable cost. Now going cross-cultural with breakfast tacos. 3500-B Guadalupe, 302-5200. www.mangiapizza.com. \$\$

TEX-MEX: TACO SHACK Good, substantial, and cheap Tex-Mex. 2825 Guadalupe, 320-8889. www.tacoshack.com. \$

THAI: THAI KITCHEN The Drag location of this respected local Thai restaurant chain is popular with student diners - the authentic food is fresh, spicy, and affordable. 3009 Guadalupe, 474-2575. www.thaikitchenofaustin.com. \$\$

WEST

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE, DESSERTS: UPPER CRUST BAKERY Cinnamon-roll aficionados should try their version, a refined-taste treat that refuses to overwhelm the cinnamon with stickiness. Stop by at lunchtime for soups, salads, and sandwiches. 4508 Burnet, 467-0102. www.theuppercrustbakery.com. \$

FRENCH: LA MADELEINE Diners slide their trays down the cafeteria-style line to order quiches, salads, soups, and sandwiches on dense homemade bread and croissants. 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 306-1998. www.lamadeleine.com. \$

INDIAN: SAROVAR INDIAN CUISINE This North Austin restaurant offers the most extensive Indian menu in the city, with pages of North and South Indian specialties. 8440 Burnet, 454-8636. \$\$

INTERIOR MEXICAN, TEX-MEX: ZUZU HANDMADE MEXICAN FOOD The tomatillo and poblano salsas are fresh, and their guacamole is some of the best in town. Try corn relish and green salad on for sides. 5770 MoPac N., 467-9295. www.zuzuastin.com. \$

ITALIAN: CIPOLLINA Counter service for superior eat-in or takeout fare with an Italian flair. Panini and wood-fired pizzas are exceptional. 1213 West Lynn, 477-5211. www.cipollina-austin.com. \$\$\$

SEAFOOD: CAFE JOSIE Look for inventive food and the rich spices of the equator applied to high-quality meat, fish, and poultry. Nice surroundings and a small but perfect wine list complete the experience. 1200-B W. Sixth, 322-9226. www.cafejosie.com. \$\$\$

SOUTHWESTERN, TEX-MEX: ZTEJAS Every dish on the menu has a surprise inside - some combination of ingredients that fills the time between ordering and the first bite with heavy anticipation. 1110 W. Sixth, 478-5355. www.ztejas.com. \$\$

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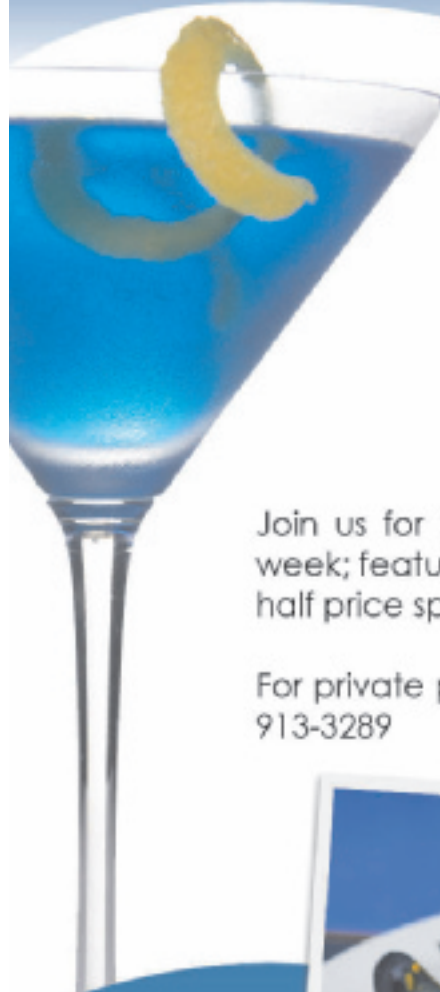
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The Intersection of Personal and Political

AFS Essential Cinema profiles Philippe Garrel

BY JOSH ROSENBLATT

French director Philippe Garrel is one of the true enigmas of the film world. Born in Paris in 1948, an up-and-coming director by the time he was 21, friends with Godard and other big names in the New Wave, a longtime lover and collaborator of singer and Velvet Underground icon Nico, an award-winning director of more than 25 movies over the last 40 years, and still he's essentially unknown here in America.

Reasons for this are varied.

For one, Garrel has never been particularly interested in success or reputation (or America, for that matter), choosing what he calls "the life of the artist" over any recognition or monetary rewards. Then there's the work itself, which draws no easy distinctions between the political and the personal or the meditative and the confrontational; as much as any director before or since, Garrel is in his element exploring the moral and emotional contradictions that conspire against human relationships. In addition, he's not afraid to make his audience work for understanding: Motivations, intentions, psychological states – they all have to be surmised and not just digested.

Which is all to say that Philippe Garrel was always doomed to be unknown in America.

Starting Nov. 27, the Austin Film Society

will be doing all it can to change that, by presenting a miniretrospective of Garrel's work, titled French Maverick, Rebel Auteur: Four Films of Philippe Garrel. I say "mini" because Garrel's films are nearly impossible to get your hands on; even movies of his

that took home medals from international film festivals haven't made the trip to America. And several of those that have didn't bother to pick up subtitles along the way. Luckily, associate programmer Jameson West has managed to secure four titles for the AFS series, all of them dense, provocative, and – more importantly – comprehensible even for those of us who took Spanish in high school.

The series begins with 2005's *Les Amants Réguliers* (Regular Lovers), considered by many to be the fullest realization of Garrel's cinematic aspirations. *Les Amants Réguliers* is a roman à clef about the director's life during the famous Paris student revolts that took place in May 1968. The film, shot in rich black



Les Amants Réguliers

and white by William Lubtchansky, tells the story of a sensitive and disaffected young poet named François (played by the director's son Louis), who gets caught up in the street riots and underground political rumblings that were all the rage that spring. The film is a meditation on the murky motivations that often lie behind social revolutions: Many of its heroes seem to be rebelling against the de Gaulle government as much out of boredom as any real political conviction, an ambivalence Garrel relates through rambling voiceovers that harken back to the days of the New Wave and extended takes of disillusioned young men moping their way home through the streets of Paris after a long night's social unrest.

Week No. 2 will feature *Le Vent de la Nuit* (The Wind of the Night), Garrel's 1999 exploration of

a doomed love affair starring legendary actress Catherine Deneuve, to be followed on Dec. 11 by *J'entends Plus la Guitare* (I Can't Hear the Guitar Any Longer), a tribute to the director's former lover and Velvet Underground chanteuse, Nico, whose

brief, glamorous life was plagued by a decidedly unglamorous addiction to heroin.

On Dec. 18 the retrospective ends with Garrel's beginning: one of his first feature-length films, *Le Lit de la Vierge* (The Virgin's Bed), a 1969 religious allegory starring model-musician Zouzou as Mary Magdalene and Pierre Clémenti as Jesus. It seems appropriate to finish off the series with a film from the late Sixties, a time when a young Garrel was building an artistic vocabulary out of the confusion of a revolutionary age and helping to promote that revolution through his own stubbornly independent vision. ■

All screenings take place Tuesdays at 7pm at the Alamo Drafthouse at the Ritz. For more information, visit www.austinfilm.org

'NO COUNTRY' FOR SQUASH FRUIT



SANDY CARSON

Oh, Yes, There Will Be Ultraviolence Department: It's become increasingly difficult over the years to raise a brouhaha on Sixth Street; we live there, and generally the only people out and about before sundown are either (possibly) crazy, dentally challenged hobo-types or Austin Convention Centrists crossing to the other side of the street to avoid the same. That said, leave it up to the brand-spanking-old Alamo Drafthouse at the Ritz to ramp up the neighborhood ballyhoo-quotient by turning the sidewalk into an abattoir. Promoting Joel and Ethan Coen's *No Country for Old Men*, resident Alamo mad professor Edwin Wise (of DorkbotAustin.org) whipped up a functioning simulacrum of the murderous main character's weapon of choice: a hand-held, pneumatic cow-killer, that, as seen above, drove a steel bolt through a weekendlong series of suitably strawberry-and-banana-filled pumpkin "heads" at 4,000 feet per second. "The regular Sixth Street crowd was ecstatic," Alamo programmer Lars Nilson tells us. "It was like they had some sort of carnage receptor in their heads. We drew as big a crowd as if we had been punching an old man in the head." Of course, we only saw the demo exhibition, but still. As the wizened, possibly crazy, extremely toothless, and very hairy vagabond passerby exclaimed to us after witnessing the display of skull-pulverizing, hydraulic chutzpah, "Oh, wow, brains and stuff, right?" You bet your life, friend-o.

– Marc Savlov

DVD WATCH

I AM CUBA: THE ULTIMATE EDITION

New Yorker Video/Milestone
Cinematheque, \$44.95

Forty-five years ago, director Mikhail Kalatozov was commissioned by the Soviet government to make a film about the 1959 Cuban revolution, which had turned that tiny island nation into the symbol of communism's growing influence and the model for Third World populist rebellion. Taking as his model *Battleship Potemkin*, Sergei Eisenstein's trumpeting of the fall of the czar in 1917, Kalatozov enlisted the aid of cinematographer Sergei Urusevsky to help him create a different kind of cinema, one that would celebrate the new world that Cubans were waking up to and redraw the artistic boundaries of moviemaking at the same time. The result, *I Am Cuba*, is a remarkable marriage of technical experimentation, artistic innovation, radical storytelling, and left-wing politics. And without a protagonist at that: In truly socialist fashion, Kalatozov and his screenwriters decided that no one character in their film would be more significant than any other; Cuba, rather, would be the star of the show. (A notion that, in film terms, is as radical as socialized health care or peasants seizing the means of production.) You could argue for days about the artistic merits of this kind of political propaganda and any director who chooses to indulge in it, but there's no denying the daring at the heart of a film that laughs so loudly at convention. Defying gravity and probability, Urusevsky's handheld camera snakes its way



through crowds of sun-soaked Americans basking decadently by hotel pools, over the water-logged underworld of Havana's shantytowns, through the sugarcane fields of exploited local farmers, and finally inside the urban student rebellions and full-scale rural revolution that finally tipped the scales in Castro's favor and allowed him and his citizen army to march triumphantly out of the mountains. This 3-DVD set is full of bonus features – includ-

ing interviews with one of the film's screenwriters, Yevgeny Yevtushenko, and full-time film encyclopedia and sometime director Martin Scorsese and two full-length documentaries, one about Kalatozov and the other about the film he made – that do a convincing job of making the case for *I Am Cuba* as one of the most important artistic achievements of the last 50 years.

– Josh Rosenblatt

ALSO OUT NOW...

Rescue Dawn (MGM/UA, \$29.99): Werner Herzog's fictionalized companion to his 1997 documentary, *Little Dieter Needs to Fly*, had all the marks of greatness but falls short in its portrait of an American pilot (Christian Bale) shot down during the Vietnam War, who escapes from a prisoner-of-war camp.

Into Great Silence (Zeitgeist, \$29.99): Documentarian Philip Gröning's six-month immersion in the ascetic life of a Carthusian monk at France's Grande Chartreuse monastery is a bust after he realizes he left his microphone in the car.

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You Ain't Goin' Nowhere

Writer/director Todd Haynes on Dylan, Sturm und Drang, and the long shadow of the Sixties

BY SPENCER PARSONS

Cate Blanchett in *I'm Not There*

Has Todd Haynes reinvented the biopic? Is *I'm Not There* this year's *Walk the Line* or *Ray*, with fancier editing and a tarot deck of Dylans? Starring Marcus Carl Franklin, Ben Whishaw, Christian Bale, Cate Blanchett, Heath Ledger, and Richard Gere as multiple manifestations of a singular artist not named Bob Dylan, the film is much stranger and more difficult than that. If casting Blanchett against gender as the most human and thoroughly Dylan-esque of these figures comes as perversely little surprise, it's a tribute to both the actress, whose performance the movie can barely contain, and the director. Remember, this is the same artist whose initial notoriety arose not merely from casting Barbie in *Superstar: The Karen Carpenter Story* but from making us believe in and care for her.

Throughout his career, Haynes has considered the lives and work of artists, both directly (*Assassins: A Film Concerning Rimbaud*, *Velvet Goldmine*) and indirectly (*Poison*, *Far From Heaven*), to attack the eminently Dylan-esque question, "How does it feel?" But reinventing the biopic? He did that in his short films. As I talk with Todd Haynes over the phone about

his prismatic and slippery *I'm Not There*, I can't help thinking what he's really reinvented is the Todd Haynes film.

Austin Chronicle: *I'm Not There could maybe describe any of your films about artists, which seem to be less about biography than about this intangible thing that isn't the artist, the experience of art.*

Todd Haynes: Yeah, that's exactly what I always feel. I'm not really trying to materialize the corporeal dimensions but really trying to get at what a person did in their life and the art. But I do think that Dylan's there. He's totally there in the work and in the making of the work.

AC: *That can create this illusion of contact, even intimacy, with the artist, acting like a drug, that can even be kind of dangerous.*

TH: It's definitely a part of what I think this film is about. ... And the way you describe it, there is this kind of extra kick, this closeness to the art that feels like it's another person, but it isn't. It's one of the things that creates this extra, wild flash of desire around Dylan ... how he refuses to fulfill that, creating more desire, that endless swirling and frustration.

AC: *You often re-create specific historical film styles in your work. It's interesting here where a character pointedly critiques a Dylan figure for being derivative, not being of his own time, while the film itself works from older forms, not quite of its time, either.*

TH: I don't feel that I work any other way. I work by detour and complete immersion in something else, in another language that I'm learning ... trying to get at some molecular accuracy about a time and a place that I'm exploring for other reasons. And yet I don't think that there's anything that isn't artificial. If you try to make work that's completely of its own time and place and moment, that's still an artificial thing.

We are always inheriting languages and tropes. And in film, there's a machine called production, and when a director doesn't have a point of view, you have a crew that goes ahead and lights it a certain way and shoots it a certain way, and the actors take a certain approach to get the job done. And you have to stop that from happening. You have to stop people from falling into the automatic point of view, and when you see a film, those automatic things are evidence of our contemporary moment. ... The imprint of its time.

AC: *That makes sense, but I still wonder — and maybe it's impossible to talk about this — how do you see this film in relation to its time?*

TH: Well, I think there are all kinds of ways that we can't stop thinking about the 1960s now, and that's evident in the film. I felt the sad, strange hauntings, this return, while I was writing the script, cooped up at home in Portland, working alone on this amazing job but completely helpless, watching the events of the Iraq war bringing us back around to this. But at the same time, I felt like we couldn't be further from what was going on then, in terms of how much more wealthy and distanced a culture we are now. But the fact is, there's still a reaction formation to the Sixties that's going on.

I think the entire conservative era we're living through is a reaction to the Sixties. And maybe we're seeing a turn now, away from the Goldwater reaction that's culminated in the current apotheosis of criminality and violence. But with just the slightest exceptions, I really did not consciously tailor the script to make those connections. ... If I just attended to the specifics of that era, those tensions and connections would emerge. ... I know I bring my own weird perspective and my own artistic stamp, for sure, but I feel like that's actually the thing that you get only while you're not looking.

But I just found that the formal and stylistic experiments that Dylan underwent and explored in the music were also being explored and exploded in cinema at that time. ... The way the linear time continuum was being thrown up in the air and broken in those years in popular cinema to express all these really different things that people were connecting with. What's amazing is that European art cinema was popular cinema at

the time, and so that became a language for dealing with these radical things that Dylan was doing, primarily in that period, as well as throughout his career.

AC: *And the structure of very different but interweaving parts of I'm Not There makes me think of some of the most formally radical films of the Sixties that just really threw it all in a blender. But most extreme work was created very organically, through shooting and editing, and there couldn't be scripts. This has those qualities, but it's also obviously written, so just how did you write it?*

TH: Well, it is very scripted. Most people don't see it ... as an understandable process. They think maybe it's a structure you create in the editing room, and maybe you could, if you had endless money and you could just keep editing and shooting and call in actors at a whim, but, of course, none of those things were possible. So all the thematic elements, the idea of introducing the versions of the character in the story in chronological order, I had to find the ways that that could be scripted [as something we could shoot] and weave together. But you know, it's funny; the script actually had more intercutting than the finished film did. We have bigger uninterrupted chunks of each of these stories now, and that was an area where we were able to loosen it up in the editing.

But it really was an impossible script and is described that way by the actors and people who came on board regardless ... which makes it all the more miraculous that it got made and that so many people stood by and defended it. ... I mean, there's just the brevity of an image and how much it can do at once, how much you get onscreen, that doesn't make as much sense on the page. So the rhythm of it wasn't evident at all in the script.

AC: *And in that rhythm, there's something really wild. You've got multiple figures for Dylan, but you don't quite feel the presence until Cate Blanchett arrives pretty far into the movie, and it's like everybody's just been talking about this person, almost like the arrival of Harry Lime in The Third Man.*

TH: No, I know, we're in this sort of marketing discussion right now, whether we should be going for best actress or supporting or what ... but I just realized the whole film, as you describe, is a setup for a monumental performance and a monumental Dylan. The casting enigma is the leading

point of discussion people have going into it, this hook. ... It's very teasing and almost a send-up. And that has a lot to do with this Dylan.

But it's a performance that completely, amazingly survives all that. ... So, yeah, it is the leading performance. And I'm not ashamed of that. And, really, maybe that period, the *Blonde on Blonde* and electric moment, is the leading performance of Dylan's career ... and Dylan is the ultimate performer. Cate really gets to the root in a way that defines his powers and frustrating, constant disavowal of himself. Because he lives and dies in this moment of performance. ■

I'm Not There opens in Austin on Wednesday, Nov. 21. See this story at austinchronicle.com for an extended interview.

On Cate Blanchett: "I just realized the whole film, as you describe, is a setup for a monumental performance and a monumental Dylan."

- Writer/director Todd Haynes

Funny Finds a New Home

BY BELINDA ACOSTA

The other day someone asked me what I was writing about since the Writers Guild of America strike began. Well, it's not like TV screens went black. Infomercials would air before that happened. That would suit the 13% of individuals who said they would "watch whatever comes on TV," according to a poll conducted by the WPP group, as reported in Advertising Age (www.adage.com). The rest are migrating to other media, namely (hark!) books and magazines. But all this speculation about what viewers will do with their viewing time may be coming to an end soon. The Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers and the WGA have decided to resume negotiations on Nov. 26, which is a good indication that no one wants the strike to go on longer than it already has. However, WGA members will continue to walk picket lines on both coasts. It's not over till it's over, folks.

In the meantime, I've been scouting more strike-related websites. One of the more amusing is LateShowWritersStrike.com, featuring some snark by the snarkiest of the snarky, writers who write for *Late Show With David Letterman*. I was particularly amused by a piece by **Steve Young**, detailing how "a confused and desperate AMPTP" has responded to the other WGA — the Western Growers Association, which represents produce growers in California and Arizona:

"We thank you for not demanding even 1/100th of 1% of any fresh produce-related revenue we may eventually generate through DVDs or new media. ... Many of our executives routinely send fruit baskets to friends and clients. It would be a shame if the contents of those baskets had to be sourced from New Mexico, Oregon, or who knows where else. It doesn't have to happen — as long as you keep your roughened, dirty hands out of our pockets."

D'oh!

Holiday Stuff

Looking for the perfect holiday gift for your TV fan? How about some cool collectibles from *The Office*, *30 Rock*, *Las Vegas*, and *Friday Night Lights*? The most impressive items include *Heroes* artwork by **Tim Sale** (Sale paints the future-predicting canvases fictionally created by Isaac Mendez). Wardrobe items and props from other NBC and Universal Media Studio series will also be on the block. Go to www.nbc.com/auctions to see what's available. The first round of bidding goes through Dec. 3. A portion of the auction's proceeds will benefit the United Way and its various partner organizations.

For gift-giving closer to home, ME Television wants to grant wishes to 15 lucky viewers for their second annual 15 Days of Xmas program. A night out on the town, new toys for kids, or any other idea that comes into your head, with



an emphasis on the good cheer of the holiday season, will be considered by a ME Television assembled selection committee. Each fulfilled wish will be filmed and aired Dec. 11-25. To submit a wish, go to www.metelevision.com or write to Santa in care of ME Television, 2123 S. Congress, Austin, TX 78704.

You know, I usually get excited about all the holiday fare coming up, but then I remember that you can watch it all, anytime of the year, on DVD. Actually, I still get excited — cookie baking just isn't the same without *It's a Wonderful Life* playing in the living room, and *Holiday Inn* and *White Christmas* without commercial breaks just seems weird to me. Two of the few things that can't be watched on DVD happen on Thanksgiving: the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and the National Dog Show. This year, **Meredith Vieira**, **Matt Lauer**, and **Al Roker** anchor the parade, now in its 81st year. I love me a parade, but standing in the cold with hit-or-miss access to restrooms? No, thank you. I'd rather watch Vieira and company battle the elements while I watch from the comfort of my home, as I chop, slice, bake, and stir the annual Thanksgiving meal. Following the parade, **John O'Hurley** hosts the National Dog Show, aired live from Philadelphia. If that's not good, clean fun, I don't know what is.

The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade airs Thursday at 8am, followed by the National Dog Show at noon, both on NBC.

E-mail Belinda Acosta at tveye@austinchronicle.com.

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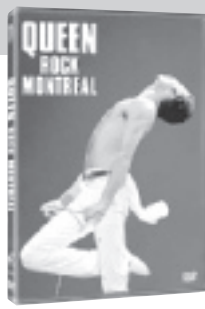
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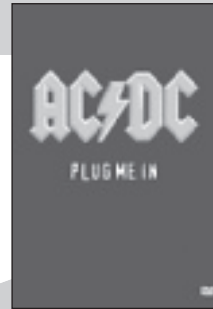
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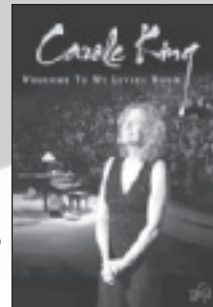
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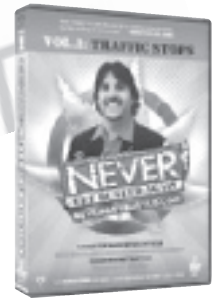
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music news

BY AUSTIN POWELL

GO MENTAL

For nearly three decades, **Marc Bell**, aka **Marky Ramone**, has been arguing his name-sake inclusion in punk's fatal four. "[Original drummer **Tommy Ramone**] could be called the **Brian Jones** of the **Rolling Stones**, and I'm the **Ron Wood**," says Marky Ramone, who joined the group for its seminal *Road to Ruin* in 1978, left in '83, returned in '87, and stayed until the bitter end in 1996. "What I did was keep the machine running for those years." The iconic skinsman and host of Sirius Satellite Radio's **Punk Rock Blitzkrieg** recently took the stand to defend **Phil Spector**, helmsman for the Ramones' pop spectacle *End of the Century*, during the infamous producer's second-degree murder trial on **Court TV**. "They were both under the influence of drugs and alcohol, and when you mix those two things, accidents happen," he says. "I don't think he's guilty at all." On Friday, Ramone barks out the 1-2-3-4 at Emo's with help from the **Queers**. "It's time to rekindle these songs, and who else is there to do it?" Ramone asks. For the rest of the interview, see austinchronicle.com/earache.



TOP OF THE POPS

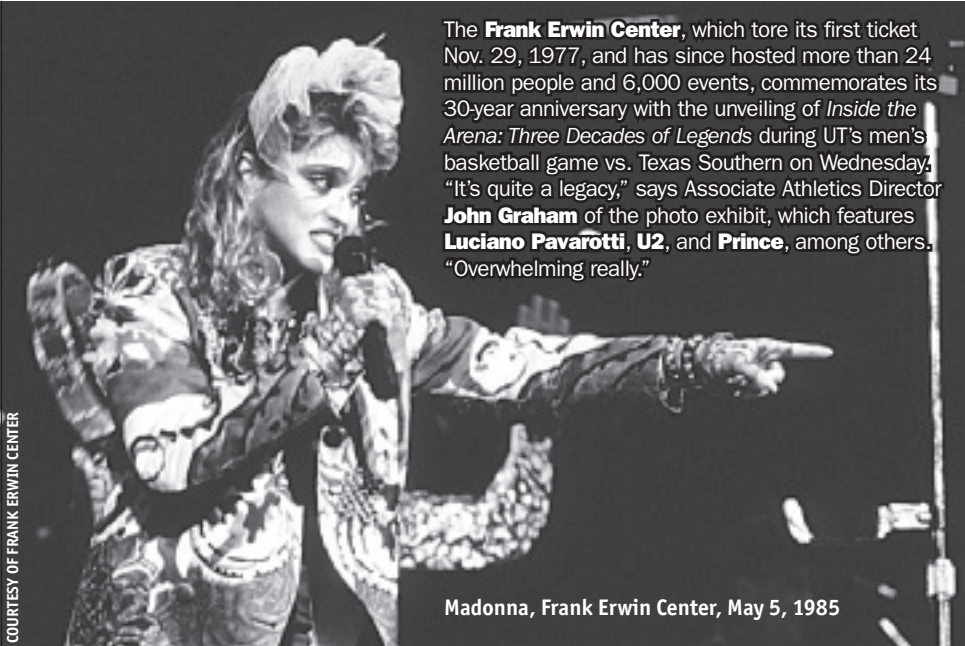
C3 Presents has plenty to be thankful for this Thanksgiving. The local enterprise took home the Top Independent Promoter award at the fourth annual **Billboard Touring Awards** last Thursday in New York, while both of its festivals, **Austin City Limits** and **Lollapalooza**, are among the local nods on the ballot for this year's **Plug: Independent Music Awards**. (**Spoon** and **Okkervil River** are both up for Artist and Indie Rock Album of the Year.) The icing on the cake came courtesy of **Sonic Youth**'s six-string scholar **Thurston Moore**, who name-dropped **Stubb's** as his favorite live-music venue on **Pitchfork Media**: "Cold beers, hot barbecue, and rock & roll. It's sort of an equation you really can't deny. There are a lot of good venues, but that one is always consistent."

BROKEN SPOKE LEGEND

Of all the projects the **Broken Spoke** has been approached as a setting for, the premise of Austin-based comedy *The Sno Cone Stand Inc.* is probably the strangest. The independent film, budgeted at \$1.5 million, stars **The Sopranos'** **Tony Sirico** and **Morgan Fairchild** in the story of three disenchanted stockbroker trainees working their way down the corporate ladder. "I'm not too sure what it's about," admits owner **James M. White**, "but there's supposed to be a cameo from **Willie Nelson**." The historic honky-tonk has kept busy lately, appearing in television commercials for **Foster's**, **Miller Lite**, **Levi's**, and **Wrangler jeans**, as well as episodes of **Friday Night Lights**. Most recently, the Spoke was the subject of a segment for the **Discovery Channel** and a **BBC Three** program. "We get so many people out there filming that it's hard for me to keep track of," says White, who's sitting out his Tuesday **Hardcore Country** night with **Alvin Crow** next week for a private party. "They like to come over and film the bands playing and the people dancing with cowboys hats to the Texas two-step. Those things are hard to find these days."



James White in the shirt Clifford Antone gave him



Madonna, Frank Erwin Center, May 5, 1985

DIGITAL ECSTASY

IndieKazoo, a locally developed, online music outlet, is officially open for business. For a \$20 monthly subscription fee, the site allows artists to create their own personalized stores, which can be integrated into websites and whose sales are directly deposited into a PayPal account. Singer-songwriter **Ana Egge** and **Jon Dee Graham** are among

the local artists already on board, while Kazoo is currently allotting a 30-day free trial for bands. "The site is designed to enable indie musicians to sell their own records without third parties," says co-founder **Ken Feldman**. "The whole process takes less than an hour, making it that much easier for bands to do it themselves."



Summer Wardrobe

WE SELL SOUL

A quick glance at the guest list for **Roky Erickson's** historic **Austin City Limits** taping last week was all that was needed to understand the magnitude of his local legacy: **ZZ Top's Billy Gibbons**, **King Coffey** of the **Butthole Surfers**, and members of **Centromatic** and the **Black Angels**. The two luckiest folks in the building, though, were **Jon Sanchez** and **John Leon** of the **Summer Wardrobe**, who've been occasionally backing Erickson as **Evilhook Wildlife ET** since a last-minute New York engagement in June. "Billy [Gibbons] was checking out my gear," recalls Sanchez. "He kept asking me how I got all of my different sounds." The Wardrobe's shoe-gazed pop crystallized Erickson's softer ballads like "Starry Eyes," the subtle twang of Leon's steel guitar replacing the **Aliens'** original auto-harp arrangements. "We try to interpolate each song differently, giving each one its own sound and its own place," Sanchez says. The local quartet is also preparing a new full-length for New York imprint **Rainbow Quartz**. "It's going to sound a lot more spaghetti western noir," adds Sanchez, "but psychedelic, too."

RANDOM PLAY

One of the few black musicians in Austin's early punk scene, **Byron Scott**, guitarist for **Do Dat**, died on Friday morning due to complications arising from a stroke. Scott, 52, also played in the **Twisteyes**, **Bad Mutha Goose**, and the rockabilly outfit the **Trouble Boys**, who opened for the **Clash** in 1982. A funeral service is set for 1pm, Wednesday, Nov. 21, at **Austin-Peel and Son Funeral Home**, 607 E. Anderson Ln.

Two decades after his appearance on *The Cutting Edge* and hot on the heels of his triumphant return at **Antone's** (see "General Lee and Me," Oct. 26), **Dino Lee & the White Trash Revue** have their sights set once more on **MTV**. The network is hosting an online competition, awarding bands from select markets a slot on MTV2's New Year's Eve Bash. Voting ends Sunday, Nov. 25. DinoLeeOnMTV.com.

Bongo Fury continued: **Dweezil Zappa & the Zappa Family Trust** provided an epic 3½ hour crash course in the musicology of **Frank Zappa**, without intermission, last Tuesday night at **Hogg Auditorium**, all of which was filmed for a live DVD to be released next year.



Two of a Kind

Jesse Dayton and Brennen Leigh are holdin' their own

BY DOUG FREEMAN

Brennen Leigh has a shotgun leveled at Jesse Dayton's head. Inside the rusting heap of a trailer, Dayton is still asleep, sprawled, hung over, beside a young brunette. When he turns and opens his eyes, he's greeted by the double barrel, Leigh's pursed lips, and a steel-eyed glare.

"It's like a trailer for an old Seventies grind-house movie," says Dayton excitedly about the promotional short. "At the end, the background blows up, and I'm walking out of it. You think you're watching some excerpt from Burt Reynolds' *Gator* or something!"

The video, directed by local filmmaker Ben Foster and circulated on YouTube, presents itself as excerpted from a 1953 film called

Holdin' Our Own, a black-and-white rampage of liquor, guns, and guitars soundtracked with classic country duets. Only at the finale, as Dayton struts from the flames, is *Holdin' Our Own* revealed as the title of Dayton and Leigh's new album.

Out next Tuesday on Dayton's Stag Records, the album, like the video, pays homage to a classic style with a contemporary zeal that marries Dayton's hard-drivin' honky-tonk to Leigh's distinctive twang. It's also a self-conscious reclamation of the classic country duet from Nashville's corporate grasp.

"There's a whole new generation of kids who have never listened to George and

Tammy or John and June or Conway and Loretta," says Dayton. "We're appealing to all these kids who used to be into punk rock and now have mortgages, who now know that Johnny Cash is cool and have never heard a country duets record in their life. They're gonna love this."

While *Holdin' Our Own* pays due tribute to country's archetypal pairings with remakes ranging from Loretta Lynn and Conway Twitty's "Back Street Affair" to Emmylou Harris and Gram Parsons' "Brand New Heartache," seven originals and the chemistry between Dayton and Leigh welcome the album accordingly.

"I think everyone in the crowd thinks we got a thing going on, and then when they listen to us, they definitely think we got a thing going on," Dayton says with a wide grin. "We don't have that kind of relationship, you know what I mean?"

"But onstage, we try to go for the same thing. If we know we can get a rise out of somebody by doing something, we'll do it, just shamelessly."

Two-Step Program

"To be a frontman, you have to be somewhat full of shit, and if you don't have good bullshit, then people aren't interested," offers Dayton.

Dayton is a natural bullshitter. Lounging easily, off hours in the deserted and darkened back room of the Broken Spoke, he tells stories with a thick, Beaumont-bred drawl and natural country flair. No shortage of stories here.

"I've gotten to play with Johnny Bush, Willie Nelson, Ray Price; I did a TV thing with Cash, but Waylon was like my runnin' buddy, and I'm most like him out of all the other guys," he says. "He wasn't like an old grandfather guy at all. Waylon would steal your girlfriend, man, up to the end of it. He was a player."

Across the table, Leigh laughs and shakes her head at the cup of coffee between her hands. Dayton flashes his sly smile.

"Brennen is like a female version of me — except for all the bad stuff," he counters. "We love the same stuff. The thing about

Brennen is you could fill the Astrodome with girls with pretty voices and that look good, but you can't fill the batter's box with girls that can play mandolin, guitar, and sit in with a bunch of old-school people.

"She knows more songs than anybody I know."

Leigh accepts the compliment with a slight and graceful "thank you." The two actually seem diametrically matched. In the face of Dayton's charismatic energy, Leigh is reserved and speaks with a careful, forceful conviction. As much as Dayton's extroverted swagger overpowers Leigh's quiet resolve, his easygoing demeanor also slowly draws her out and into its orbit.

"His whole persona onstage actually makes it easier for me," admits Leigh. "I'm kind of uptight and strung out and nervous all the time. Jesse's more laid-back, so I can just sit back and lay in my 2 cents."

Later that night, with the Spoke packed for Dayton's regular Thursday-night gig, Leigh joins the band onstage, and the connection between the two becomes more tangible. Leigh stands demurely to the side, hands behind her back, swaying to the beat, but as she steps up to share the microphone, her voice is solid country gold and engages Dayton with a confident force.

Launching into George Jones and Tammy Wynette's "Something to Brag About," the two locals trade verses in perfect complement and competition, Leigh matching Dayton's vocal fluctuations as the dynamic builds in a pendulous swing. Leigh's harmonies on "Brand New Heartache" are soft and aching, while their original "Let's Run Away" kicks up the dance-floor dust as Leigh slaps out rhythm on her hip. Dayton's range hovers expertly between Jones and Jennings on "We Lost It," and Leigh shadows his deep lead with a soaring heartache.

Johnny Cash and June Carter's "Long Legged Guitar Pickin' Man" captures the duo at their best. As Dayton swings his guitar into the air, Leigh interjects with an incendiary sass. Segueing seamlessly into "Jackson," she rolls her eyes, and they banter back and forth in ornery and passionate provocation. Even if the emotion between them isn't real, the chemistry is as natural as any country-music couple airing their fondness and frustration in song.

Let's Run Away

Dayton and Leigh's teaming was the product of error. Traveling with a host of Austin artists to the Mirande Country Music Festival in southwestern France during the summer of 2006, the two were separated from the rest of the group by a mistake with their airline tickets. Forced to take another flight across the Atlantic, they sparked an instant affinity over country classics, and Dayton invited Leigh to join him onstage at the festival.

"I was backstage singing this George and Tammy song, and she came in and started singing with me, and I said, 'Hey, why don't we do this up onstage tonight,'" Dayton relates. "We did it, and the people just went nuts. So, of course, we had to keep her up there."

The next night, Dayton and Leigh took over the back corner patio of a bar with their guitars. "I asked, 'What do you know?' and she knew as much as I knew and more," he says. "If I knew a Porter and Dolly song, she'd know the rest of the words to it. We sat there and sang for like six hours. We were probably driving the staff crazy."

Though they come from drastically different backgrounds, the two find common ground in their determination to work outside of, and disgust for, Nashville's contemporary mainstream machine. Leigh, 14 years younger than the 40-year-old Dayton, was raised in Minnesota just across the border from Fargo, N.D., and the distinct accent still

continued on p.65

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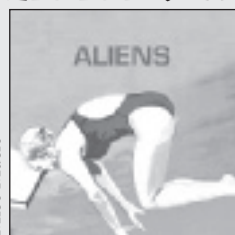
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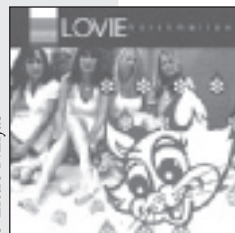
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LOVIE
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This all-female band harkens to the day of the Go-Go's and Veruca Salt, with aggressive guitars, head-bopping beats and vintage vocals that take listeners all the way back to Josie and the Pussycats. Harshmellow is filled with catchy melodies, killer keyboard riffs, poppy tunes, and solid song writing.
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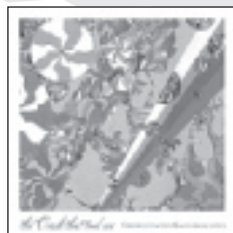
Arrowhead



JEFF GRIFFITH
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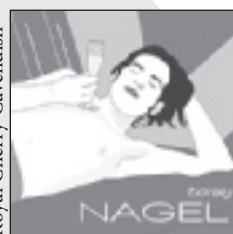
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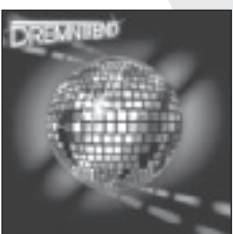
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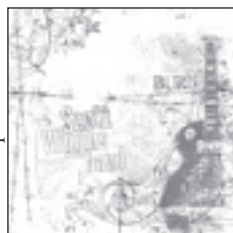
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rounds her inflections. She began playing music with her brother, Seth Hulbert, at the age of 12.

"Even at a young age, I realized that the stuff on the radio mostly wasn't any good," she says. "I had an advantage because my family was into good music. My dad played guitar; my mom played piano; they could sing harmony together. There was not much else to do up there. My dad had me in the cradle singing 'Wreck of the Old '97' and 'Wildwood Flower.'"

At 19, Leigh and her brother left Minnesota in pursuit of a more promising musical environment, landing in Austin in 2002 and releasing her debut album, *Lonesome, Wild & Blue* that same year. Two more albums, 2004's *Too Thin to Plow* and last year's *Devil's on My Trail*, showcase Leigh's versatility and her bluegrass and gospel roots.

Dayton has notoriously followed his own path and diverse influences, as well, eschewing Nashville's draw and even asking for release from his major label deal with Hollywood Records to start his own label, Stag Records.

"I will never be the boy next door, Nashville music guy," he declares. "I like the antihero; I like the outlaws. I don't like those guys that look like they work at a bank. By the grace of God, when I put out my first record [*Raisin' Cain*] in '95, I didn't have a lot of Nashville acts that wanted to take me out on tour, so I went out with Social Distortion, the Supersuckers, X. And you know what? Those bands are still huge, and half of those Nashville acts I would have gone out with are probably cuttin' hair somewhere."

By the 2004 release of *Country Soul Brother*, Dayton had inherited the outlaw tradition from the legends themselves while melding a distinct, genre-broadening Texan sound in the vein of Doug Sahm. Dayton's greatest success came with the improbable solicitation from Rob Zombie to write songs for his 2005 horror-freak film, *The Devil's Rejects*. In the persona of two 1970s honky-tonk troubadours, Banjo & Sullivan, Dayton penned irreverent anthems like "Dick Soup" and "I'm at Home Getting Hammered (While She's Out Getting Nailed)." The subsequent album, *Banjo & Sullivan: The Ultimate Collection 1972-1978* ("Texas Platters," Sept. 2, 2005), introduced an entirely new legion of fans to Dayton's music, even if they weren't aware of it.

"I called Rob Zombie after two months, and he told me, 'Hey man, the record's doing great!' I said, 'Yeah, but everybody thinks it's two dead guys from the movie!'" laughs Dayton. "He goes, 'Does your mailman know who it is?' and I say, 'Yeah.'"

"So he says, 'Well, then, shut the fuck up!'"

"I bought a tour bus, and I have my own label, so my luck doesn't suck," Dayton attests. "We don't expect the Texas music, frat-boy scene to embrace us, but luckily I've done well enough with the Banjo & Sullivan record that I won't ever have to do anything for those guys, ever."

Something to Brag About

Holdin' Our Own continues Dayton and Leigh's dogged attempts to circumvent the corporate stranglehold on contemporary country music while mining a classic sound that should remind Nashville of its heritage abandoned in the wake of polished, pop-country superstars. As they discuss the current state of the industry, there's a sense that the album represents something more important to the two Austin artists than simple success.

"People want something that's honest; that's all they want," says Dayton. "To me, country radio sounds like bad rock & roll with a fiddle player. There's a huge contingent of people out there that don't listen to Clear Channel radio who love what we're doing."

"You look at Nashville, and do you really want to be compared to those people?" asks Leigh. "Is that the pool you want to be thrown into? It's pretty much a lost cause. That whole Nashville empire – the CMA Awards, the radio – it's all bought and paid for, premeditated murder. I don't think they necessarily want something edgy or superartistically charged."

JESSE DAYTON & BRENNEN LEIGH

"Holdin' Our Own" and Other Country Gold Duets (Stag)

Male-female duets in country music include such legendary pairings as George and Tammy, Conway and Loretta, June and Johnny, and Porter and Dolly, no last names necessary, thank you. Some day we might add Jesse and Brennen to the



TODD V. WOLFSON

Dayton and Leigh at the Broken Spoke, Nov. 8

Launching into George Jones and Tammy Wynette's "Something to Brag About," the two locals trade verses in perfect complement and competition, Leigh matching Dayton's vocal fluctuations as the dynamic builds in a pendulous swing.

"It's helping us, because all we have to do is get up onstage and be ourselves and be honest, and people are blown away," adds Dayton. "We're not really interested in appealing to people who watch Fox News and listen to Toby Keith and are at Wal-Mart every day. If you make good music, your audience will find you. I firmly believe that. The secret is to do it yourself, and do it inexpensively, and then go work your ass off."

Expecting no help from commercial radio, the pair has planned alternative, underground approaches to help promote the album, of which the faux movie trailer is a part. California's Wente Vineyards is offering a download of the Dayton/Leigh original "We Hung the Moon" in a promotion that also includes Kings of Leon, and the two acts are plotting an extensive tour for next year. Dayton already admits to not being able to book shows without being asked if he's bringing "the girl."

"The Hillbilly Princess," that's what I call her," Dayton says with a wink.

"Is it stickin'?" laughs Leigh facetiously.

"Oh yeah, it's stickin'," says Dayton. "'The Country Soul Brother' and 'the Hillbilly Princess.'"

The *Holdin' Our Own* CD release party throws down Thursday, Nov. 29, at the Broken Spoke.

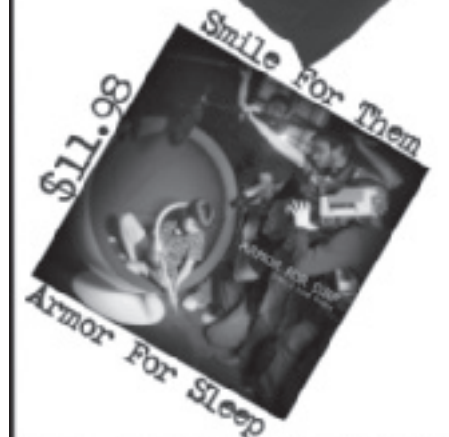
list. There's no denying that separately Dayton's, and Leigh's voices possess a twangy edge ideal for singing songs about lust, heartbreak, and old-fashioned romance. *Holdin' Our Own* features 12 crooners, and while they don't all work, when they do, the results are country heaven. To their credit, Dayton and Leigh composed most of the tunes, and nearly flawless are the randy title track and shimmering "We Hung

the Moon." Meanwhile, Leigh's youthful exuberance sparkles as she plays Carter to Dayton's Cash on "Long Legged Guitar Pickin' Man," one of the disc's few covers. They even take a stab at bluegrass, Leigh's forte, on fiery ramble "Somethin' Somebody Said." As good as the legends? Not yet, but *Holdin' Our Own* is a dandy first attempt.

★★★

— Jim Caligiuri

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BROADCASTS VOL. 15
(107.1 KGSR Radio Austin)

The 15th installment of KGSR's coveted series benefiting the SIMS Foundation veers from the dominant singer-songwriter dynamic that typically characterizes the releases. Instead, a heavy dose of blues and jams provide the backbone of the two discs, led by cover boy Jimmie Vaughan's double offering with the swinging "Extra Jimmies" and exceptional Omar Kent Dykes collaboration "Jimmy Reed Highway." Furthering the blues vibe, John Hammond's harmonica explodes on "You Know That's Cold," Papa Mali lays down a gritty "Johnny Porter" with backing from the Gospel Silvertones, and Ruthie Foster's stunningly soulful voice soars on "Fruits of My Labor." Ian McLagan & the Bump Band are given opening honors with the dark, funky groove of Ronnie Lane's "Spiritual Babe," an impulse that finally erupts with Cyril Neville & Tribe 13's "Talkin' 'Bout New Orleans" and J.J. Grey & Mofro's "War." Patty Griffin, the Greencards, and Alexi Murdoch are among the encores from Vol. 14, though Tony Joe White's return with "Rainy Night in Georgia" is most impressive in its deep, plodding movement that sounds almost like a 45 played at 33 rpm. Guy Clark's "Stuff That Works" is equally compelling, as is Madeleine Peyroux's jazzy swing with "I'm All Right" and Joan Armatrading's intimidating range on "A Woman in Love." Though Gomez and Calexico both supply impressively subdued moments with "See the World" and "Cruel," respectively, and Future Clouds & Radar's stripped down "Build Havana" is gorgeously graceful, there are as many acoustic missteps from indie contributors: Ryan Adam's dreadfully trilling "Two," a poignant but dated "The Blower's Daughter" from Damien Rice, and Spoon's "The Underdog," enthusiastically attempted but begging for the original's energy. Vol. 15's best moment doubles as its most stretching, with Angelique Kidjo's "Salala" melding African, Latin, blues, and jazz influences behind her entrancing and soaring vocals.

★★★ — Doug Freeman

★★★★★ Perfect ★★★★★ Great ★★★ Good ★★ Mediocre ★ Coaster

WENDY COLONNA
Old, New, Borrowed, & Blue: Live at Antone's

Wendy Colonna's extensively packaged *Old, New, Borrowed, & Blue* is an ambitious undertaking: two CDs and a DVD recorded live at Antone's. It's also a risky one with a touch of overkill in the DVD, where she's styled like a Mucha nymph, since Colonna is a relative newcomer without the local history that usually accompanies live recordings. Yet the Louisiana native possesses a smoky, alluring voice, and her impressive songwriting dominates the recordings; all but two songs are hers. Colonna chisels her finely faceted gems in "Girls of Stone," "Coffee Today," "Hold Me Tight," and "Thunder" and does so with panache and confidence. It's little coincidence that the title track of her last CD, *Right Where I Belong*, was picked up by Toni Price on her latest recording, because if it feels like there's a hole in Austin's musical psyche left by Price's departure, Wendy Colonna is the one most likely to fill it.

★★★ — Margaret Moser



MARK DAVID ASHWORTH
Viceroy (Autobus)

A local singer-songwriter with a unique vision is extremely rare these days. That's what makes Mark David Ashworth's debut a thrill. Recorded during his travels in Central and South America, *Viceroy* comes across as a warped travelogue that envelops the listener with its eccentricities. That Ashworth performs the multi-instrumental arrangements almost entirely by himself makes it even more remarkable. Borrowing a bit from the city folk of Beck and with a voice that occasionally recalls Ron Sexsmith's melancholy, Ashworth mixes staggered beats with visions of the places he's been, ever searching and imploring for answers that aren't there yet. Street sounds mix with flamenco guitar on the languid "Something We Can Hold in Our Hands," while a tenor guitar line-dances around Ashworth harmonizing with himself ethereally on "Silver and Gold." Even then, *Viceroy*, an album in the every sense, is best consumed whole.

★★★★ — Jim Caligiuri



THE TEXAS SAPPHIRES
Roadhouse Gems: Live at John T. Floore Country Store (Stag)

After last year's excellent local debut, *Valley So Deep*, a live album capturing the Sapphires'

honky-tonk attitude would seem an ideal follow-up. Unfortunately, *Roadhouse Gems*, recorded at the John T. Floore Country Store, offers rough cuts at best. Sounding like an open-mic bootleg, the poor quality discounts any lo-fi charm, which flattens the vocals and loses the band. Billy Brent Malkus' lead vox is hollow, while Rebecca Cannon's perfect harmonies are distantly squandered. Though it's impossible to look past the sound, the Sapphires' superior songs still stand out, 19 tracks mining their debut and unearthing covers ranging from Hazel Dickens' banjo-laden "You'll Get No More of Me" to Gram Parsons' "Ooh Las Vegas." Merle Haggard's "Tonight the Bottle Let Me Down" is faithfully rendered, while "Truck Drivin' Man" and the hillbilled "How Mountain Girls Can Love" inject some fire into the mix, but these gems demand a better setting.

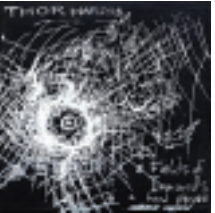
★★ — Doug Freeman



THOR HARRIS
Fields of Innards (I Eat Records)

Most ambient music operates under the philosophy that less is more. Tones and textures need adequate space to reveal themselves before easing into the subconscious. Such is not the case with Thor Harris' debut, *Fields of Innards*, a disorienting, densely layered 12-song instrumental suite of textured percussion and glockenspiel that feels like the calm before the storm. Unlike his gorgeous guitar-feedback fragments that accompanied this year's deluxe reissue of Shearwater's *Palo Santo*, Austin's Harris focuses here on combining found sound – trodden leaves and backyard atmospherics – with coats of hammer dulcimer and textured xylophone. The effect is that of a hall of mirrors, unsettling and claustrophobic, as if the walls are closing in, particularly on the untitled third track, which has all the subtlety of the jarring clocks that conclude Pink Floyd's "On the Run." This is the sound of the dark side.

★★★ — Austin Powell



THE CHRIS VESTRE GROUP
Suburban Life

It's been two years since Chris Vestre's maiden voyage, *Jazz Camp*, debuted with its alluring front line of guitar and vibes. That infrequent



TEXAS PLATTERS

combination can still be heard on this sophomore effort, but it hardly dominates as before. Instead, the Austin guitarist takes a more adventurous tack with an expanded sound and scope on this set of all new originals. The three principals have returned – vibist Aaron Lack, bassist Chris Maresh, and drummer Jon Greene – but are now augmented by three horns and keyboardist Evan Jacobs, making for a much richer palette. Saxophonist David Chenu stands out on the soulful "Sun & Shade," while Evans glows throughout on piano, Rhodes, and organ. Vestre, for his part, remains a tasteful and understated guitarist who's more interested in contributing to a group sound than grandstanding his talent. He's wonderfully succinct on "You Be You." Vestre's musical vision has matured considerably in two years.

★★★ — Jay Trachtenberg

CONTRANOVA
Infinity in All Directions (Diabolical Genius)

The project of Elgin's Sean Craypo, Contranova reassembles the band Craypo began eight years ago on its debut, adding a collection of artists to contribute sparsely arranged strings and horns. It's appropriate, then, that *Infinity in All Directions* purportedly presents the tale of a time-machine experiment gone awry. Despite the conceit, the songs hold their own integrity as shattered explorations of unreclaimable personal histories. The fragile folk-pop orientation of opener "Backwards Clockwork" mirrors local bands like the Lovely Sparrows and Goodnight, Fish, while Craypo's vocals plod toward Mark Kozelek's understated folk, especially when coupled with the Sufjan Stevens-styled indie banjo on "Calculate the Mass." The diverse instrumentation, including bassoons, harps, and vibes, at times becomes absurdly gratuitous, as with the misplaced overture of "Revolution 10 (Sound Collage #1)," but only rarely detracts from the songs. Like Phil Elvrum, Craypo crafts amazingly poignant and revelatory moments within odd, elliptical narratives, and *Infinity* is worth the wait.

★★★ — Doug Freeman



THE NORMANS
Stereo Savant (Brief Planet)

Following up their (very) full-length debut, 2004's 16-song *Dreams of Autocrashes*, the Normans' *Stereo Savant* EP retains the expansive wall of sound in a more condensed

continued on p.68



CD/DVD

STEVIE RAY VAUGHAN & DOUBLE TROUBLE
Pride and Joy (Epic/Legacy)

STEVIE RAY VAUGHAN & FRIENDS
Solos, Sessions & Encores (Epic/Legacy)



one of the first to hit the market months after the Austin guitarist's tragic death at the age of 35. Doubled from its original 36-minute runtime, the DVD appends a trio of *MTV Unplugged* performances and three *Family Style* bonuses to the eight videos made during SRV & DT's

Posthumous releases, both great (*The Sky Is Crying*) and small (*Blues at Sunrise*) now outnumber Stevie Ray Vaughan's initial Texas flood, 1990's *Pride and Joy* VHS, commercial run, 1983-1990. Hilarious ("Cold Shot"), perfectly stormy ("Couldn't Stand the Weather"), and pimped out ("Change It") can't quite match the "Superstition" clip's cameo, though "The Vaughan Brothers EPK" (electronic press kit) makes a nice vault-able. Time for the complete *MTV Unplugged*, audio and visual. *Solo, Sessions & Encores* hodgepodes 14 Vaughan collaborations on CD, six of them live and previously unreleased save for a tart studio recording of Lou Ann Barton signature "You Can Have My Husband" from 1978. A.C. Reed's

"Miami Strut" and Bill Carter rave-up "Na-Na-Ne-Na-Nay" prep the live heart of SS&E: sulfuric Jeff Beck duel "Goin' Down," Lonnie Mack's yummy "Oreo Cookie Blues," Katie Webster and Albert Collins back-to-back at Jazz Fest '88, and with brother Jimmie Vaughan on *Saturday Night Live* '85. Dick Dale's "Pipeline" never slows, and closing with Bowie's "Let's Dance" equals a licensing coup. Boxing all of SRV's studio guest shots would be a feat in the face of all the unreleased live material still available.

(Both) ★★★ — Raoul Hernandez

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and manageable burst. With former God Drives a Galaxy guitarist Cory Butler at the helm, the Normans reflect aspects of the former group's hypnotic psychedelics, emerging here in the space-rock textures swirling behind a garage-pop sensibility and accentuated by the atmospheric lulls of the Tosca String Quartet. "Well Well Hey Hey" kicks in the EP with a wave of feedback pouring into a straight-ahead, if blissfully scratchy, pop, the song's oppositional impulses toward unrestrained, discordant jams and subdued, tightly wound vocal harmonies hearkening Granddaddy's *Pretty Mess*. The balance succeeds best on "Lowell," the underlying restlessness and anxiety of the opening lines surging into an epiphanic explosion. And although closer "Heavens to Betsy" revisits *Autocrashes*, the four new songs satiate beyond the disc's brevity.

★★★ — Doug Freeman

MAGNET SCHOOL
Tonight We Drink ... Tomorrow We Battle the Evil at Hand (Arclight)

Last year's debut Magnet School EP, *Crush*, had punch and power, maneuvering through melody, riff, and echo like only veteran rockers could. *Tonight We Drink* takes that EP (in its entirety) and adds a dose of At the Drive-In sensibility, Foo Fighters addiction, and slick, arena-rock production. The local fourpiece electrifies a sound that switches on the fog machine, releasing the bass-heavy drive of opener "XX." Without a hi-hat in ear-shot and relying heavily on song structure, newbies "Seventensplit," "Colettalicious," and "The Ghost of Duane" are timeless, borrowing tricks from early-Nineties stalwarts (not unlike Magnet School's cover of Swervedriver's "Never Lose That Feeling") and adding their own verve. It might be a little too clean, a little too glossy for a Red



River powerhouse, but if that's the biggest issue Magnet School faces, then funding won't be a problem at all.

★★★ — Darcie Stevens

COMA IN ALGIERS
This Is Your Justice

Man-as-animal punk has included some great species: the Jesus Lizard, Electric Eels, Flipper. Austin fourpiece Coma in Algiers isn't quite there yet, but its 13-song debut sure is agitated. *This Is Your Justice* comes at you convulsing and flailing, from the pavement-splatter of opener "Johnny Come Home" to the goopy guitar and bleak sexuality of "Black Rabbit," but CIA uses the primality of guitars/bass/drums/occasional keys to measured effect, never turning into a screaming bloody mess. There's even a sweet ballad, "Franklin & Julie," but it gets appropriately backhanded by the guttersnipe of midalbum standout "House on Fire." "Jelly" references sodomy, the Bible, and peanut butter for a nice slap of Yow-ism, and "Sex With an Invalid" sounds as depraved as it should, a throbbing chest-pound that makes follow-ups "Incest Party," with its tin-foil chewing screams by singer Archbold, and "Hey Mom" feel exhilaratingly feral.

★★★ — Audra Schroeder

THE FLOOD
Power to the Sheeple

The culmination of a six-month-long public smear campaign, the Flood's debut, *Power to the Sheeple*, assumes the role of the evil empire, polluting feeble minds with a lethal dosage of sludge metal. Modeled after the Melvins'



Gluey Porch Treatments, the local trio layers on the riffs thick as a brick, particularly the opening title track, JFK's vocals mimicking King Buzzo's, and "Jaded Waterloolen," an attack on record-store clerks. Longer selections like "Infidel" and "Teacher" go over best, leaving room for some interesting guitar pyrotechnics, but at nearly 80 minutes, the Flood's oppressively heavy gloom-and-doom propaganda seriously grates on the nerves. "Listen Now! You Shut Up," 33 seconds of electronic filler, separates the album from the five-song *Drugs* EP, which is bookended by the stoner metal cut "You're High" and closing buzz-kill "We're High," 11 minutes of droning and contorted feedback. Fight the power.

★★ — Austin Powell

CORRUPTION IS KING
The Karmic Debt (Crustacean)

Sonically speaking, *The Karmic Debt* casts its lot with the first stone hurled. "Creeps Are Coming" is an ear-splitting, bottom-heavy sound-bomb capped with bloodcurdling, throat-shredding vocals. Corruption Is King's key delineating factor is the fundamentally pop structures that often gird their songs. Once you've weathered all the surface grit, it's easy to transpose the lyrics of Blink-182's "All the Small Things" into the verses. This is pop-punk restructured for violent civil unrest. Unfortunately, such an approach loses momentum with each subsequent carpet-bombing of the exact same territory. The one-two missed punches of "Dead in the Parking Lot" and "Call It" only weaken the shock-and-awe appeal of the Austin quartet's firepower. While "Lay Low" and "Cut Off" boast more engaging dynamics, *The Karmic Debt* avoids throttling beyond first gear more often than not. Overwhelming noise alone isn't enough to win the battle for hearts and minds.

★★ — Greg Beets



deEP end

With any EP, there's a fine line between too little and too much. **Zykos'** *Keep It Light EP* (Cult Hero) is too long overdue for a mere four songs to suffice, however good they may be. "What You Know" balances jumping piano rhythms and fuzz-box guitar like Bowie circa '73; "Keep It Light" capitalizes on the stark contrast between



lead singer Michael Booher's forceful sneer and the soft accent of pianist Catherine Davis. Mike McCarthy's stellar production shines during the bleeding melodrama of "October Rain." The Texas debut from P.W. Long of Mule and Wig fame as **Young James Long**, *You Ain't Know the Man* (Southern), hits fast and hard, packing five songs into less than eight minutes. Backed by Young Heart Attack's Taylor Young and Tenderloin's Kirkland James, Long transforms his trademark



barbed-wire guitar to fit the sound of the dirty South for opener "In the Moanin'," while his hysterical, Pentecostal shouting on "Not Stillwater" sounds like Scott H. Biram backed by Amplified Heat. One second more, and this EP would detonate. The eponymous debut from **No Bridges to Cross** is an intriguing one-off collaboration between Leatherbag's Randy Reynolds and Driftin' Luke's Colby Pennington, meticulously detailed by artists from their respective labels, Superpop!



and C-Side Records. "Jewelry" merges Pennington's off-kilter narratives and the Channel's Californian pop with Reynolds' Crazy Horse-influenced guitar and dry delivery, but it's the Reynolds-led "Picture You Like I Am" and "One Lonely Man" that shine. The self-titled four-song collection from **Ghost of the Russian Empire** teases an impending LP but it feels more like a call to action. "A Decade Without a Death" opens with uppers and downers, driving rhythms, and a veil of distortion



and reverb, creating a medicated stupor that carries through the acoustic "Hammer Hands," while the glacial contours of "Dresden" recall the dreamy ballads of *Hail to the Thief*-era Radiohead. Someone please put this album out, and soon. — Austin Powell



7 AND 7 IS

... limited to 500 copies all across the board here, beginning with the **Strange Boys'** stellar EP *Nothing* (Dusty Medical). The slow, dusty back-porch blues of the title track and "Happily in Disbelief" crackle and pop like Smithsonian Folkways recordings from the 1950s. "We Both Know" adds wozy organ, guitarist Ryan Sambol's slurred vocals consistently in the red, but the real nugget here is the scorching, garage-bopper "Art for Art's Sake." **Yellow Fever** trades in the simplistic K Records bounce of its infectious debut for the psychedelic sounds of Jefferson

Airplane on the local trio's "Culver City" candy-yellow 7-inch. The title track rides a plodding bassline beat that slowly builds toward pop perfection, while "Joe Brown" unwinds a mystery tale with splashes of surf guitar. Led by former Octopus Project auxiliary man Kevin Adickes, **Mothfight's** *Hopscotch* (Natrix Natrix) is a two-part train wreck of syncopated rhythms, choral voices, and xylophone that sounds like Danielson on speed, especially the flip side, which swells with strings courtesy of violin prodigy Marcus Rubio. The **Teeners** get downright violent on the locals' eponymous debut (Super Secret), a blitzkrieg of lo-fi garage punk captained by vocalist Johnny Vomitnoise, who more

than lives up to his name. It's still easy listening compared to the latest addition to Spain's Munster Records' Single's Club, **Danny & the Nightmares'** "Death of Satan" b/w "Monster Mash," in which Daniel Johnston preaches about Jesus and the devil over the howl of a nearby dog and an out-of-tune guitar.

— Austin Powell
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LEAD STORY

Update: The man noted in “News of the Weird” in 1996 for keeping an almost unbelievably detailed personal diary died in October at age 89. For 25 years, the Rev. Robert Shields of Dayton, Wash., had chronicled his life in five-minute segments of banalities, leaving 37 million words on paper filling 91 boxes. His self-described “uninhibited,” “spontaneous” work was astonishing in its mundaneness. Examples: Aug. 13, 1995, 8:40am. “I filled the humidifying basin mounted over the Futura baseboard heater.” 8:45am: “I shaved twice with the Gillette Sensor blade [and] shaved my neck behind both ears, and crossways of my cheeks, too.” July 25, 1993, 7am: “I cleaned out the tub and scraped my feet with my fingernails to remove layers of dead skin.” 7:05am: “Passed a large, firm stool, and a pint of urine. Used 5 sheets of paper.”

IRONIES

- In interviews with reporters from McClatchy newspapers in October, cemetery workers in Najaf, Iraq, lamented the recent downturn in violence in that city, as they admitted having grown accustomed to the income from the estimated 6,500 caskets a month that they serviced. (The number had fallen to less than 4,000 a month, and others dependent on the death industry around Najaf were said to be similarly suffering.)
- In October, following 18 months of investigation, the Texas State Library and Archives Commission concluded that the state government requires too many reports (a total of more than 1,600). About one-fourth of them either were duplicative of others or were still required, even though the receiving agency no longer exists, or are dutifully prepared year after year, even though it is evident that they go unread. The commission issued its findings in a 668-page report.
- What Goes Around Comes Around: 1) Tajuan Bullock, 33, was allegedly caught in the act of burglarizing a home in Montgomery, Ala., in October, and, while the resident held him at gunpoint for police, he made Bullock clean up the big mess he had made when he was rummaging for valuables. 2) Police in Bakersfield, Calif., came to the aid of a man and a woman at the bottom of the Panorama Bluffs near town and told reporters later that the man had attempted to toss his girlfriend over the cliff but that she grabbed him, and the pair tumbled down 300 feet together (and that he was hurt worse than she).



BY CHUCK SHEPHERD



Ticketed for DWEC (Driving While Eating Cereal): Four people were injured in Houston in October when a driver failed to stop for a red light while eating a bowl of oatmeal and collided with a transit bus. (Three passengers were hurt, in addition to the motorist, and witnesses said oatmeal was found all over the inside of the car and also inside the bus and on the ground, according to a KPRC-TV report.) Two weeks earlier, in London, Ontario, a driver accidentally lost control of his car while eating cereal, drove through a grassy median, and hit two oncoming cars (but no serious injuries resulted).

THE GREAT TEXAS OUTDOORS

1) In August, entomologists found a spider web in a state park about 45 miles east of Dallas, covering trees, shrubs, and the ground along a 200-yard stretch. The originally white web had turned brownish because “millions” of mosquitoes had been trapped in it. 2) In September, wildlife experts tried to assure the public that the jellylike blobs (“millions of tiny organisms known as zooids,” wrote *The Dallas Morning News*) attached to trees and dock pilings along Grapevine Lake between Dallas and Fort Worth were harmless. 3) The latest sighting of the legendary “chupacabra” (the mythical hairless, bloodsucking goat), near Cuero, Texas, in August, was determined in November to be that of a dead coyote.

THE POOR DEAR!

A federal magistrate in Tampa, Fla., ordered a doctor’s appointment in October for the incarcerated Brian Wilcox, who is being detained on several child-pornography charges, after he complained that he was suffering from a series of medical problems. He said that his back hurt from a 4-year-old injury that he has problems with his eyes, that his feet and groin area are numb as if they are “asleep,” that there is a bulge on the left side of his groin, that he is worried about a mole on his nose because of his family history of cancer, that all of his remaining 16 teeth are either decaying or cracking (keeping him from eating, and he’s lost 40 pounds), and that he has “severe flatulence at all times.”

COMPELLING EXPLANATIONS

- Hawaiian Airlines is suing Mesa Air Group on a business matter and believes Mesa’s chief financial officer, Peter Murnane, has, or had, documents relevant to the lawsuit on his office computer but that, recently, conveniently, the documents had been deleted. Mesa acknowledged in a September court filing that Murnane had indeed recently erased a huge number of files from his office computer but said he was merely deleting his massive collection of pornography.
- Anthony Azzopardi, 80, agreed in September in Bridgeport, Conn., to plead guilty in connection with a sexual encounter with a 5-year-old girl. Until recently, his story was that the girl had aggressively led him by the hand into the bedroom, pushed him down on the bed, and sexually assaulted him.
- Monsignor Tommaso Stenico, an official with the Vatican’s Congregation for the Clergy, was suspended in October when he was recognized in a hidden-camera TV documentary about gay priests. However, he told *La Repubblica* newspaper in Rome a few days later that he is not gay but was only pretending to make sexual advances to a man in order to gain the trust of “those who damage the image of the Church with homosexual activity.”

CRÈME DE LA WEIRD

In Charlottesville, Va., in October, a judge found white-nationalist leader Kevin Strom not guilty of the sexual enticement of an 11-year-old girl, despite humiliating testimony from Strom’s wife. According to prosecutors, she (also a white-nationalist activist) had caught him at home naked, masturbating to photographs of nude women whose faces had been replaced by face shots of two prominent but very young white-nationalist singers. Subsequently, charges were filed over Strom’s obsession with a local girl (to whom he had sent presents and about whom he had described his feelings to his psychotherapist). However, in the end, a federal judge said the obsession did not amount to a crime (though Strom remains in jail on a child-pornography charge).

Visit Chuck Shepherd daily at newssoftheweird.blogspot.com (or www.newssoftheweird.com). Send your Weird News to: Chuck Shepherd, PO Box 18737, Tampa, FL 33679 or weirdnewstips@yahoo.com. ©2004 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

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c

COMMUNITY p.72 +

a

RTS p.78 +

f

ILM p.84 +

m

USIC listings p.94

this week

COMMUNITY LISTINGS

(PLUS HIGHLIGHTS FROM **ARTS**, **FILM**, AND **MUSIC**) BY NORA ANKRUM

Thursday 22

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Blood Freak @ Alamo Ritz, 12mid

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

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The *Austin Chronicle* is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the Dec. 7 issue is Monday, Nov. 26.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Include SASE for return of materials.

Send submissions to the attention of the appropriate writer (see roster below).

Mail to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin, 78765, fax 458-6910, or e-mail:

Kate X Messer or Kate Getty (The Gay Place): gayplace@austinchronicle.com.

Mark Fagan (Sports): gameplans@austinchronicle.com.

Nora Ankrum (everything else): calendar@austinchronicle.com.

Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, Listings editor, 454-5766 or brenner@austinchronicle.com.

the young ones

PASTA TALES WRITING CONTEST Olive Garden wants to know: What is your favorite family activity, and what makes it so special? First- through 12th-graders are invited to respond in 50 to 250 words; the winning essay writer will receive a \$2,500 savings bond and a trip to New York. *Deadline: Nov. 30. www.olivegarden.com/company/community/pasta_tales.asp.*

VICTOR PETER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP This \$500 scholarship from the Czech Heritage Society of Texas is available to graduating high school seniors. To apply, address one of the following two topics in a 300-word essay: 1) **A Family Member Who Represents Czech Heritage** or 2) **A Family Member Who Contributed to the Czech Heritage in the United States.** (Applicants need not be of Czech origin to apply.) Call for more details. *Deadline: Feb. 28, 2008. 281/342-4898.*

★ **BEYOND SIGHT: AN INTERACTIVE EXHIBIT TO PROMOTE BLIND AWARENESS** lets you explore your underserved senses, learn to read Braille, and try to identify objects by smell, hearing, and touch. *Through Nov. 24. Austin Children's Museum, 201 Colorado, 472-2499. www.austinkids.org.*

Friday 23

ALTERNATIVE RADIO features an interview with journalist **Dilip Hiro**, author of *Blood of the Earth: The Battle for the World's Vanishing Oil Resources*. 2pm. KOOP Radio 91.7FM. www.koop.org.

BARTON CREEK HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING & GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST Kick off the holiday season with an evening of caroling, face-painting, hot apple cider, eggnog, and fresh cookies. All are invited to submit edible gingerbread-house creations for the contest, which features categories for kids, tweens, teens, and adults. 5:30-7pm. *Barton Creek Resort & Spa Wildflower Atrium, 8212 Barton Club Dr., 329-4000.*

CHANGE 4 CHANGE FOUNDATION GRANT DEADLINE That's right, it's a *Fundation* grant, and it's sponsored by PBS program *Super Pal Universe*, which will give it to the area nonprofit that best embodies the goals of creativity, social responsibility, and arts empowerment that are central to the Super Pals. See www.superpaluniverse.com for details. *Deadline: Today!*

CODEPENDENTS ANONYMOUS is a 12-step program for people interested in overcoming codependence and developing healthy relationships. *Tuesdays, 7pm; Riverbend Church, 4212 Capital of Tx Hwy N., 263-1037. Wednesdays, 7pm; Garden Terrace Residence, 1015 W. William Cannon, 243-0884. Fridays, 6:30pm; Shoal Creek Hospital, 3501 Mills, 243-0884. sunny55@austin.rr.com.*

DOWNTOWN GHOST TOURS offer nooks-and-cranies walking tours that spotlight the dead to bring Austin's history and geography to life. *Fri.-Sat., 8pm. 853-9826. www.hauntedtexas.com.*

EMANCIPET FREE DAYS This mobile spay/neuter clinic might be in your neighborhood today. Check www.emancipet.org to find out. *Fri.-Sat., check-in begins 8am (first come, first served). 587-SPAY. Free.*

FLU CLINIC You can check two seasonal staples off your to-do list at one place this year: Shop and get your winter flu vaccination at the mall. *Fridays & Saturdays, Nov. 23-Dec. 23. Barton Creek Square, lower level Macy's court, 2901 Capital of TX Hwy. \$30 (cash or check only; insurance not accepted).*

★ **FRONT STEPS/AUSTIN RESOURCE CENTER FOR THE HOMELESS** hosts a volunteer orientation session today for anyone interested in working with Austin's homeless. RSVP via e-mail, or fill out the application at www.frontsteps.org if you'd like to attend. *11am-noon. Austin Resource Center for the Homeless, 500 E. Seventh, 305-4100. dperkins@frontsteps.org.*

PEOPLE UNITED features **Carlos Mauricio**, a survivor of torture at the hands of the Salvadoran police in 1983, talking about his experiences in relation to U.S. foreign policy, past and present. *1pm. KOOP Radio 91.7FM. www.koop.org.*

WHEN ROOTS ATTACK! REGGAE BENEFIT FOR KVRX 91.7FM Come on out for an evening of reggae tunes from McPullish, Don Chani, Judge, DJ Dubbist, and Green Belt Soundsystem to benefit student-run radio station KVRX. *9pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. \$7. www.kvrx.org.*

MCCALLUM FINE ARTS ACADEMY WORKSHOPS Eighth-graders are encouraged to register now to attend this informational workshop for prospective students and parents of McCallum's Fine Arts Academy. See www.austinsid.org for details. *Registration deadline: Nov. 26; workshop: Dec. 15. 414-7506.*

BISCUIT BROTHERS' MERRY MUSICAL CHRISTMAS An old-fashioned sing-along for the whole family, featuring familiar holiday favorites and brand-new originals from the Brothers' new CD – be sure to get your copy signed after the performance. *Through Dec. 1. Fri.-Sat., 7pm. Scottish Rite, 207 W. 18th, 472-5436. \$10 (\$8, kids; \$3, under 12 months). www.scottishritetheatre.org.*

BARTON CREEK HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING & GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST (See Friday listings.) *Fri., Nov. 23, 5:30pm. Barton Creek Resort & Spa Wildflower Atrium, 8212 Barton Club Dr., 329-4000.*

REPPY: GRATITUDE AND GRACE Celebrate Thanksgiving with the irrepressible Reppy in a fun-filled and musical afternoon of holiday activities for the whole family. *Sat., Nov. 24, 3pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. \$7-35.*

PUPPET SHOW PLAYERS perform an adaptation of *Nate the Great Talks Turkey*. Gobble, gobble hey! *Sat., Nov. 24, 11:30am. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.*

★ **LA PASTORELA: A SHEPHERD'S STORY** The forces of good and evil clash in this annual holiday performance. *Nov. 25-Dec. 11. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Tillery Street Theater, 701 Tillery, 293-1250. \$8-12 (free, kids under 12; pay-what-you-can, Thursdays). www.lapastorela.com.*

SUNDAY KIDS SHOW Join Mr. Steve for a drumming extravaganza. *Sun., Nov. 25, 10:30am. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free.*

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT AT THE LIBRARY Enjoy free popcorn and drinks tonight while you watch *Happily N'ever After*. (See Special Screenings.) *Mon., Nov. 26, 6:30pm. Southeast Austin Library, 5803 Nuckols Crossing Dr., 974-7400. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library.*

ZINES AT THE LIBRARY For kids ages 12-17 interested in making their own zines. *Thu., Nov. 29, 6:30pm: Carver Library, 1161 Angelina, 974-1010. Free.*

FOLLOW THE WHITE RABBIT TO BOOKKIDS for an *Alice in Wonderland*-esque story time featuring *Knuffle Bunny* followed by other stupendous tales. *Tue., Nov. 27, 11:30am. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.*

★ **WORKSHOP FOR FAMILIES OF SPECIAL-NEEDS STUDENTS** addresses a wide variety of needs, from disabilities to emotional difficulties, and provides information on resources, area events, and coping skills. Call for specific program details of any given session. *Second & fourth Tuesdays, 7-8:30pm. Rosedale School, 2117 W. 49th, 414-2049. Free.*

CEDAR CREEK ELEMENTARY POETRY READING Hear some of West Lake's finest young poets as they read their works. This event is part of an in-store book fair fundraiser for Cedar Creek Elementary. *Tue., Nov. 27, 6pm. Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.*

BRAND NEW BOOKS including BookKids's favorite new picture book, *Toy Boat*, by Randall de Seve. *Wed., Nov. 28, 10:30am. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.*

BY DARRYL HEIKES. COURTESY OF THE CENTER FOR AMERICAN HISTORY



Bob Beamon breaks the world record and wins the Olympic gold medal, Oct. 23, 1968.

Meet the Man Behind the Lens

[SEE TUESDAY, PHOTOJOURNALIST DARRYL HEIKES]

THEATRE (See Arts Listings.)

The Santaland Diaries Zachary Scott Theatre Center

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Blade Runner: The Final Cut @ Paramount, 4:30, 7, 9:30pm
Punk's Not Dead @ Alamo Drafthouse South, 12mid

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Pink Reason, Psychedelic Horseshit Beerland
Captured! by Robots Room 710
Lil' Brian & the Travelers Jovita's

Saturday 24

ARTIST'S MARKET features paintings, photography, pottery, jewelry, stained glass, clothing, candles, and more from new artists each week. All items are handmade locally, with no imports or resales. Live music throughout the day. *Most Saturdays, 10am-6pm (check website for changes). Mother Egan's Irish Pub, 715 W. Sixth, 535-5761. Free. www.downtownartistmarket.com.*

AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET features fresh organic produce, meats, and cheeses straight from surrounding Texas farms, plus live music every week. *Saturdays, 9am-1pm. Republic Square Park, 422 Guadalupe, 974-6700. Free. www.austinfarmersmarket.org.*

CAPOEIRA ANGOLA AFRO-BRAZILIAN MARTIAL ART *Saturdays, 2-4pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free, with cafe purchase.*

Ballet East Dance Company & Rodolfo Mendez, artistic director presents

the Sameness of Change

Guest choreographer
Regina Larkin
will be joined by
local choreographers
Melissa Villareal,
Danny Herman,
Sharon Marroquin,
Gina Patterson,
Amberlee Cantrell,
and Elizabeth Palmer.

November 29, 30, December 1 - 8 pm
December 2 - 2 pm

Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Road

adults - \$10
senior citizens, children - \$6

general info - 512.385.2838

mendestein@juno.com

www.balleteast.org

ticket info - 512.474.TIXS



This project is funded in part by
the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division
and by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts.

Got Honest Religion?

www.AustinUU.org

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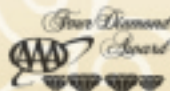
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the GAY place

BY KATE X MESSER AND KATE GETTY

THANKSGIVING WITH ‘FAMILY’ ... the family you choose. We may have places to meet, but where are our places to eat? Well, now you never have to leave **Charlie’s**, cuz every Monday through Friday, they serve lunch (11am-2pm) and dinner (5-9pm). And this **Turkey Day**, chef **Michael** prepares a special feast! Come spend the holidays with the fam. They won’t even make you sit at the kids table. *Thanksgiving feast: Thu., Nov. 22, 1pm. Charlie’s, 1301 Lavaca, 474-6481.*

POST-TURKEY COOCHIE Give thanks for Coochie, that’s what we say. Yep. Even on Thanksgiving. Make your after-dinner plans now, for this special post-T’day eve featuring special cocktails the Pilgrim and the Cornucopia. Scooch yr cooch to the Eastside for **Coochie Coo**. Ladies first. *Thu., Nov. 22, 9pm-2am. The Peacock, 515 Pedernales, 276-8979.*

★ **LAST PUSH: PRIDE BUILD 2007** Home stretch is just around the bend! Our sweet li’l LGBT-ness has raised \$50,000 so far. Only \$10,000 to go to get Marta in her house for the holidays! The amazing news this week is that an anonymous donor offered to kick in the last \$5,000 if the community can raise \$5,000. OK! Go! Oh, and physical volunteers are still needed, as well. Visit www.austinpridebuild.blogspot.com for pics and details. Come on, Austin: Let’s pull our community together and raise the roof! *Austin Habitat for Humanity, 310 Comal #100, 472-8788. info@ahfh.org, www.austinhabitat.org.*

SAVE AND SUSTAIN BOOKWOMAN! Our feminist bookstore. The only of its kind in the city. Our little hot mama rainbow enclave. It just can’t shut down. Check the Web for news about the store’s progress. Right now, we’ve raised about 10% of what they need. So keep fighting. BW is in crisis and needs your support now. Go buy something, go to a reading, keep alive a pulse that keeps us beating. Now. (Holiday shopping sans malls and cheesy carols, anyone?) Fundraising is on the move: ongoing silent auction at the bookstore, a house concert in the works, and ta-da, a **Books We Love** fundraising party. *BookWoman, 918 W. 12th, 472-2785. lavagirlrox@gmail.com, bookwmntx@hotmail.com, www.savebookwoman.com.*

SAVE THE DATE TO SWING! Dance lessons. Sentimental Journeys. The Studebakers. Jet Blue. Swangin’. You know the drill. Save the date for **Holiday Swing**, the annual end-of-the-year bash to benefit **Project Transitions**. *Sat., Dec. 1. Dell Jewish Community Center, 7300 Hart, 454-8646. \$65 at the door/\$55 in advance. jrosen@projecttransitions.org, www.projecttransitions.org/holidayswing.*

CALLING ALL FEMINIST VIDEO MAKERS Next month, **CampCamp** is a **Feminist Video Art Show**. Want to be included in the fray? E-mail and become the magic. campcampqueers@gmail.com.

BIRTHDAY SUITS Nudey-patootey and feeling so free. Look to the GP for a ticket give-away (hey, it’s what we do!) to aGLIFF’s screening of **Naked Boys Singing**. What else could them nekkid mens be doing? (Lots of things.) Stay tuned for more de-tails. Heavy on the tail, and the happs on the **HRC** afterparty (at Rain) where more freedom will be celebrated (like a free iPod Shuffle?), and two Kates will sip and try not to stare. *Screening: Tue., Dec. 4, 7pm. Alamo Drafthouse South, 1120 S. Lamar, 476-1320.*

GO-GO GET YOUR TICKET Partying with **Equality Texas** just comes naturally. Especially during the holidays. It’s time for **Holiday-a-Go-Go**, a festive night about town with cocktails, hors d’oeuvres, music, go-go dancers (say what?), and mistletoe fun! Hang one from yer belt buckle; see who’s gullible. Foods by In Good Taste, and an open bar. Now, that sounds like a party, kids. *Fri., Nov. 30, 7-10pm. Midtown Office of Austin Title, 3009 N. Lamar. \$40. www.eqfed.org/ct/udAgc3n1eR9a/tickets.*

GRIZZLY-RIZZLY So this is where the bears run and play. Check out the hair-bear party of the season, with Gun Oil lube samples available. Mention your bear group affiliation at the door, and get an additional \$5 off your entry. Lights blacked out downstairs and this 18-and-up mens-only private spa and club starts grrrr-ing. Or. So we heard. *Sat., Nov. 24, 8pm. Midtowne Spa, 5815 Airport, 302-9696.*

For more gay stuff, see Calendar online: austinchronicle.com.

Send gay bits to gayplace@austinchronicle.com.

TELL YOUR STORY After **Rainbow Legends Publishing** released October’s *Dragonfly Stories: Stories Celebrating the LGBTQ Community*, the success of the book opened their eyes to the need for this outlet in the queer community. So, they’re writing another one. Have a story for volume two? Come by, get interviewed, and be featured in a book where 40% of all sales are donated to LGBTQ organizations chosen by the buyer of each book. Who says the written word is dead? *Sun., Nov. 25, 8am-4pm. Metropolitan Community Church, 8601 S. First, 816/898-5736.*

TUESDAYS TOGETHER This last-Tuesday-of-every-month at rotating locations event for **Human Rights Campaign** has it all: social networking, activism, and some seri-ous flirting. This month it all goes down at Whole Foods Cafe! *Whole Foods Market, 525 N. Lamar, 289-2198. info@hrcaustin.org, www.hrc.org/austin.*

PARIS IS BURNING No, puppy, this is not about the Hilton sister’s crotch on fire. Oh, wait. That was Lindsay. Ooooh, girl, no. This is old school. Well, to you tiny tots it is. To some of us, it’s this morning! Seems like just yes-

terday this classic 1990 documentary about the drag queen scene in NYC (specifically the black and Latino ball circuits) hit the screens. In addition, there will be a preshow reception and Q&A with South Beach legend **David Padilla**; Austin legend **DJ Mel** shall spin. Well, come get your learn on, junior. “Ignorance of your culture is not considered to be cool.” See, honey, “vogue” was not just a song. E-mail through the website to RSVP! *Wed., Nov. 28, 9:30pm. Alamo Drafthouse South, 1120 S. Lamar, 476-1320. Free. www.scion.com/route.*

SHOWGIRLS WITH DAVID SCHMADER When this glitzy stripper drama came out, everyone agreed it was awful. But, as years passed, the campiness of this oafish flick started to shine, growing it to cult classic fame. Couple that with Seattle’s quirky commentator **David Schmader** giving more than just 2 cents – his comedic analysis is worth having to watch Jessie Spano get naked. Almost. Mama. *Thu., Nov. 29, 7:30pm. Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 13729 Research, 219-8135. \$12. www.drafthouse.com.*

day TRIPS

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

Bearly Making It isn’t your ordinary chain-saw sculpture operation. Cam Dockery started the business despite living on the nearly treeless plains of Whitharal in the Texas Panhandle.

“Making things out of a log includes two things that I really enjoy,” Dockery says with a laugh. “It’s kind of dangerous and a lot of noise.”

The son and grandson of cotton farmers, Dockery grew up working the land along with his brothers. His first chain-saw art project was done on some old logs and stumps on the farm. “We had some extra time, so my grandfather gave my brothers and me a couple of chain saws to play with,” he says. He soon discovered there was a market for the whimsical bears he whittled from the logs.

In high school, Dockery didn’t particularly exhibit an aptitude for art, but he enjoyed working with his hands. A few years ago, his family bought the old cotton-gin building on the northern edge of town. After removing the obsolete ginning equipment, they turned the two-story tin barn into a workshop for his enterprise.

Over the last seven years Dockery’s business has steadily increased. The first year or two he traveled around to arts-and-crafts shows but didn’t like the experience very much. “It was a good way to build a reputation,” he says, “but I’d rather be working in the shop than out peddling.”

Wooden bears ranging between 1 and 6 feet tall are his bread and butter. Stores in Colorado, Albuquerque, Littlefield, Buffalo Gap, and Dallas carry his work. “For some reason the tourists in Colorado and New Mexico really like the bears,” he says.

About half of his business comes from custom orders, he says. The orders usually come with a general idea of what the customer wants, and then Dockery fills in the blanks. Sometimes a log will have a shape that begs for a particular design; other times Dockery starts with a few rough sketches and then lets the grain of the wood determine the actual shape.

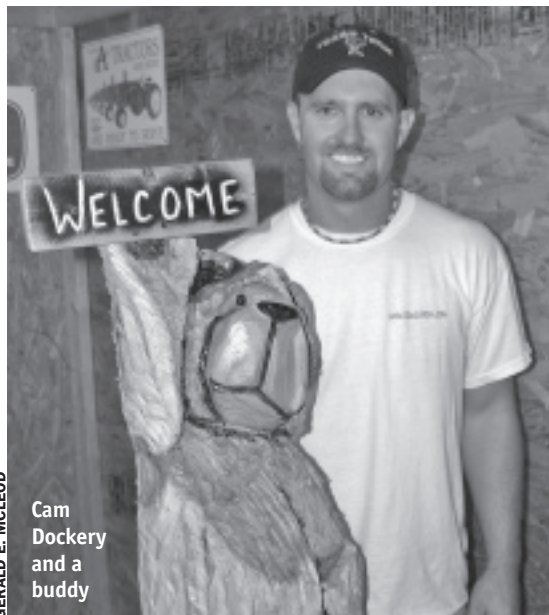
“Finding a good log is usually the hardest part,” Dockery says. He uses a lot of pine from eastern New Mexico because it is easy to work with, takes paint and varnish very well, and will last a long time. Occasionally, he uses locally grown elm, cedar, and mesquite.

The local mesquite is a pretty wood but doesn’t grow very big in the Panhandle. Dockery says it’s difficult to work with because it’s a very hard wood and the dust will make you sick. He found out the latter the hard way. There’s been a lot of trial and error in learning how to make the wooden statues, he says.

One place that he has been able to get some pointers is at the annual chain-saw sculpting competition at the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta. One of only six artists invited to the competition, he has won second place the last two years. In 15 hours over three days, Dockery completed his sculpture of a *Wizard of Oz*-themed piece.

Although carving Dorothy returning to Kansas in a hot-air balloon was one of his most unusual pieces, it is not the most unique. He’s done a 14-foot-tall replica of the Statue of Liberty, several eagles, wooden Indians, gnomes, a beagle, fireplace mantles, furniture, and headstones. “The grave markers won’t last forever, but they make a nice temporary headstone,” Dockery says.

One of his favorite pieces, an eagle taking flight, was commissioned by a woman in South Texas for her son in Alaska. She liked it so much that she ordered a second one



Cam Dockery and a buddy

for her other son in the Houston area. “They’re not exactly the same,” Dockery says, “because no two logs are ever the same.”

He also goes on-site to carve dead trees into monuments. A lot of times the tree was planted upon the birth of a child or some other event. The tree had special meaning, so the family wanted to keep it. He is currently working on ideas for a tree in an RV park in Kerrville. A dying cypress tree in front of the electric cooperative office in Levelland will soon become a sculpture of Ready Kilo-Watt. “Using a tree stump is not a bad way to go,” he says. “At least then nobody can steal it.”

About a 55-mile drive northwest of Lubbock, Whitharal has a population of 175, so Cam Dockery and Bearly Making It aren’t hard to find. He doesn’t usually have more than a couple of sculptures around the barn, unless he is working on a large order, but he’s always willing to show his photo album of past jobs. To talk to Dockery about a custom job, call 806/778-9353 or e-mail cdockery77@aol.com.

855th in a series. Day Trips, Vol. 2, a book of “Day Trips” 101-200, is available for \$8.95, plus \$3.05 for shipping, handling, and tax. Mail to: Day Trips, PO Box 33284, South Austin, TX 78704.

out of town

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

TEXAS RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL opens the theme park where the sights, sounds, tastes, and beauty of the 16th century come alive. *Through Nov. 25. Saturdays and Sundays (plus Fri., Nov. 23). 800/458-3435. www.texrenfest.com.*

HOMESTEAD CRAFT & CHILDREN’S FAIR presents handmade gifts from community craftsmen along with agricultural exhibits, children’s activities, and more. *Fri.-Sun., Nov. 23-25. Homestead Heritage at Brazos de Dios, Elm Mott, 254/754-9600. www.homesteadheritage.com.*

LIGHTING OF THE SQUARE comes with holiday carols, cookies, hot chocolate, and a collective “ahh” when they turn on the lights for the first time this season. *Fri., Nov. 23. Georgetown, 800/436-8696. www.visitgeorgetown.com.*

TEXIAN THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION includes a knife and tomahawk competition, living history demonstrations, and arts & crafts. *Fri.-Sun., Nov. 23-25, 9am-5pm. Fort Martin Scott, Fredericksburg, 830/257-2942.*

HILL COUNTRY CHRISTMAS DICKENS ON MAIN mixes German and English holiday traditions for an entertaining shopping experience. *Fri.-Sat., Nov. 23-24. Boerne, 830/816-2176.*

TEXAS HILL COUNTRY REGIONAL CHRISTMAS LIGHTING TRAIL leads to special events in Boerne, Burnet, Dripping Springs, Llano, Goldthwaite, Johnson City, Marble Falls, Round Mountain, New Braunfels, and Wimberley. *Nov. 23-Jan. 1. 866/839-3378. www.tex-fest.com.*

MERCADO DE PAZ/PEACE MARKET showcases local and international folk art while visitors snack on homemade tamales and listen to conjunto music. *Fri.-Sat., Nov. 23-24, 10am-6pm. Esperanza Center, 922 San Pedro, San Antonio, 210/228-0201. www.esperanzacenter.org.*

EMILYANN TRAIL OF LIGHTS features lighted displays and nightly entertainment around Ye Olde Yule Log. *Nov. 24-Jan. 1. EmilyAnn Theatre, Wimberley, 512/847-6969. www.emiliyann.org.*

ARTS ENCOUNTER AT BENINI’S hosts a master fiddler, an economist, a photographer, an actor, and two birders for an informative and entertaining program on art. *Sat.-Sun., Nov. 24-25, 1:30pm. Benini Sculpture Ranch, Johnson City, 830/868-5244.*

CHAPPELL HILL LAVENDER FARM opens its doors on weekends to the public for tours and shopping. *Through Nov. 25. Sat.-Sun., 11am-5pm. 2250 Dillard Rd., Chappell Hill, 979/251-8114. www.chappellhilllavender.com.*

★ CHUYS' CHILDREN GIVING TO CHILDREN PARADE

The annual Thanksgiving parade is back, complete with Santa's Helpers stationed along the parade route to collect new toys for children in need this holiday season. The procession begins at the Capitol and heads down Congress to Sixth, where it will head west to conclude at Guadalupe. Sat., Nov. 24, 11am. Downtown. Free (but bring a toy!). www.chuysparade.com.



CITY-WIDE UNDER 21 POETRY SLAM After placing sixth in the nation at last season's Brave New Voices competition in California, Austin's youngest poetic talents are back with a brand new season of lyrical ingenuity. 3pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 632-5033. \$5. www.txywc.org.

FIRST ASCENT: CLIMBING PAKISTAN'S K7 WEST A presentation from Skyward Mountaineering's Vince Anderson, who recently made the first ascent of Pakistan's K7 West with fellow climbers Marko Prezelj and Steve House. 2pm. REI, 601 N. Lamar, 482-3357. Free. www.skywardmountaineering.com.

★ **LEFTOVERS WITH LESLIE** Austin's favorite homeless cross-dresser hosts a post-Thanksgiving soiree this evening, where you're invited to enjoy free turkey sandwiches and St. Arnold's while Leslie signs the new holiday edition of his popular paper-doll magnets. 5pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. Free.

MAYFIELD PARK GUIDED TOURS Get the low-down on Mayfield's peacocks, lily ponds, history, and more. Every other Saturday, 9:30am. Mayfield Park & Preserve, 3505 W. 35th, 467-1868. Free. www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/mayfieldevents.htm.

SAHAJA YOGA MEDITATION aims to help you achieve balance, inner peace, and resistance to stress, depression, and anxiety. Saturdays, 11am-noon. Austin Recreation Center, 1301 Shoal Creek Blvd., 828-0129 or 447-8212. Free. www.austinsahajayoga.org.

SAINT GERMAIN SPEAKS First & third Thursdays, 7:30pm; second & fourth Saturdays, 1:30pm. Healing Light Center, 7018 William Wallace Way, 278-0559. \$5 donation. www.sashawhite.com.

SUNSET VALLEY FARMERS MARKET has all the locally produced fresh foods you could ever want, plus lots of nice local farmers to sell 'em to you. Saturdays, 9:30am-1pm. Toney Burger Center, 3200 Jones, 280-1976. Free. www.sunsetvalleyfarmersmarket.org.

TASTE OF WHOLE FOODS MARKET Call ahead or register at the concierge desk for this nutrition tour conducted by dietitian Hannah Wong. 11am-noon. Whole Foods Market, 525 N. Lamar, 542-2243. Free.

TILING FLOORS & WALLS CLINIC Saturdays, 11am. All Home Depot locations. Free. www.homedepotclinics.com.

DOWNTOWN GHOST TOURS (See Friday.)

EMANCIPET FREE DAYS (See Friday.)

FLU CLINIC (See Friday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Punk's Not Dead @ Alamo South, 12mid
The Cat from Outer Space @ Alamo South, noon
The Rocky Horror Picture Show @ Alamo Village, 12mid

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Ghostface Killah The Parish
Pocket FishRmen, Unicorn Magic, Punkaroos Room 710
Tom Vandenavond, Scott H. Biram Hole in the Wall
Kelly Willis & Bruce Robison Paramount Theatre

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Project Transitions' 19th Annual

HOLIDAY SWING

Join the Board of Directors
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Swing Dance Lessons • Silent Auction • Hors d'oeuvres

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\$55 Advance
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Sports

BY MARK FAGAN

THE HOME TEAMS

★ **AUSTIN TOROS** Home season opener! This Saturday! Awesome! For more on the Toros see austinchronicle.com/sports. Vs. Bakersfield: Sat., Nov. 24, 7pm. *Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez. \$8-23. www.nba.com/dleague/austin.*

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS Volleyball For more on UT volleyball see “Playing Through” at right. Vs. Kansas State: Sat., Nov. 24, 6:30pm. *Gregory Gymnasium, 2101 Speedway.*

Women’s Basketball Vs. UT-Arlington: Thu., Nov. 29, 7pm. *Frank Erwin Center, 1701 Red River.*

Men’s Basketball Vs. Texas Southern: Wed., Nov. 28, 7pm. *Frank Erwin Center.*

Men’s and Women’s Swimming Texas Invitational: Thu., Nov. 29, all day. *Lee & Joe Jamail Texas Swimming Center, 1900 E. Campus Dr. www.texassports.com.*

TEXAS LONGHORNS HOCKEY Vs. UTSA: Sun., Nov. 25, 2:30pm. *Chaparral Ice Center, 14200 N. I-35 , 252-8500. www.texasicehockey.com.*

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY Men’s Basketball Vs. Huston-Tillotson: Tue., Nov. 27, 7:30pm. *athletics.concordia.edu.*

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY Women’s Basketball Vs. La Grange: Fri., Nov. 23, 3pm. Vs. UT Tyler: Sat., Nov. 24, 3pm. *southwesternpirates.cstv.com.*

ST. EDWARD’S UNIVERSITY Women’s Basketball Vs. Tarleton State: Tue., Nov. 27, 7pm. *St. Edward’s RCC. \$5, \$3 senior/student, \$1 under 12. www.stedwards.edu/athletic/athletic.htm.*

HUSTON-TILLOTSON Men’s Basketball Vs. Concordia: Sat., Nov. 24, 2pm.

RECREATION & FITNESS

★ **ULTIMATE FRISBEE WINTER LEAGUE** is forming now and will be topped out at 204 players. The sport “combines elements of soccer, football, and basketball in a fast-paced game, played with a frisbee, where everyone is a quarterback and everyone is a receiver.” Newbies are welcome. Sign up now. *Sundays, Dec. 9-Feb. 3, 1-4pm. East Communities Branch YMCA, 5315 Ed Bluestein Blvd. \$38.50 per person. www.austinwinterleague.com.*

HILL COUNTRY OUTDOORS Learn more about Austin’s most active outdoors and social club. More than 40 events featured each month, including hiking, camping, biking, kayaking, sports leagues, socials, and more. See their website for more. *Mon., Nov. 26, 6:30-8pm. Opal Divine’s, 3601 S. Congress, 707-0237. Free. www.hillcountryoutdoors.com.*

KICKBOXING WORKSHOP Kickboxing is a great way to get in shape and defend yourself from the creeps inhabiting this world. *Mondays, 7-8pm. Premier Martial Arts-Austin, 3601 W. William Cannon #50, 447-5425. Free. www.pmaschools.com/austin1/index.cfm?page=14.*

TEXAS OUTDOORS WOMAN NETWORK Open to women of all ages interested in outdoor activities. Fishing, kayaking, camping, hiking, and more! No experience required. *Tue., Nov. 27, 6:30pm. The LCRA-Hancock Building board room, 3701 Lake Austin Blvd., across from the Hula Hut, 218-1965. www.townaustin.org.*

RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES

VERGE DIRT DERBY Did you know that there are off-road nighttime cycling races here in Austin? Now you do. Hundreds of Austin cyclists race under the lights in short track, cyclocross, and velodrome-style races. Season one: every *Tuesday through Dec. 4.* Season two: *runs from Dec. 11 through February. Austin/Del Valle Motocross Park; see website for directions. \$10 for one race, \$15 for two or more. www.dirtderby.com.*

TURKEY TROT kicks off a day of Thanksgiving festivities with a 5K for runners and walkers and a 1K for the kids. Register online beforehand or in person on race day (7:30-9am). *Thu., Nov. 22. 8:45am, kids 1K; 9:30am, running 5K; 9:45am, walking 5K. Waterloo Park, 403 E. 15th. \$25, timed 5K (\$20, untimed/walking 5K; \$10, kids 1K). www.thundercloud.com/turkeytrot.htm.*

SHAKE A LEG AT THE LAKE 5K Bring the family out and choose between a 1-mile mosey and 5K run. Plenty of fresh air, an obstacle course, live music, and “inflatables.” *Sat., Nov. 24, 9am. Lakeway Swim Center Park, 3103 Lakeway Blvd., 512/261-3000.*

★ **THE BEER MILE** It’s not complicated. You drink beer, and you run. Try to beat the world record beer-mile of five minutes and 40 seconds held by Sean Wade of Ontario, Canada. Their motto is “Gulp it down & run around.” *Sat., Nov. 24, 4pm. Circle C Metropolitan Park, 6487 Slaughter. www.austinbeermile.com.*

The **UT women** seem to be peaking at just the right time: They beat Brigham Young University in the NCAA first round, 2-0, on two early goals from freshman striker **Alisha Ortiz** – her first multigoal game – and then ousted host Texas A&M in the second round, beating them for the second time in six days, 3-2. The Horns now must win twice more on the road to get back to College Station for the *Final Four*, Dec. 7 & 9. *First up: at Florida State, this Friday, Nov. 23, at 6pm.* Hear it live on www.texassports.com.

The **Houston Dynamo** won their second straight **MLS championship** on Sunday, beating the New England Revolution, 2-1, on late goals by Joseph Ngwenya and Dwayne De Rosario.

The field is just about set for next summer’s **Euro 2008** finals. **Italy** advanced Saturday, knocking out valiant Scotland with an injury-time winner in Glasgow; that result put **France** through as well. Just about all the heavyweights are in; even dismal **England** now controls its own destiny, thanks to even more dismal Russia’s loss to Israel, though they still need a result on Wednesday to scrape in. The quadrennial European Championship is second only to the World Cup as an international prize.

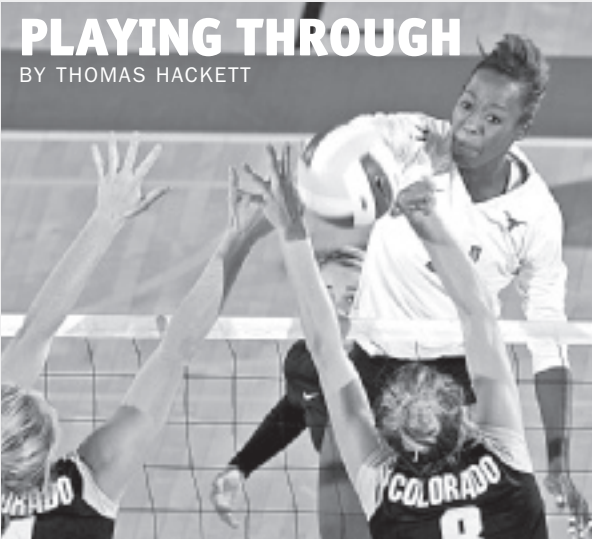
Euro **Champions League** is back in action Nov. 27-28; ESPN2 will show Sporting Lisbon at Manchester United, 1:45pm *Tuesday*, and Chelsea at surprising Rosenborg, 1:45pm *Wednesday*. – Nick Barbaro

Soccer

WATCH

PLAYING THROUGH

BY THOMAS HACKETT



See, my answer would have been “showering together,” which just goes to show why people like me never win conference titles.

The question was: “What’s most fun about being on the University of Texas volleyball team?” “Winning” wasn’t how the players answered, thank God. That’s the kind of reply that blowhard football coaches give, as if they were laying down some existential profundity. But the UT women have been winning. A lot. Without breaking a sweat, it sometimes seems. And there’s no doubt about it: It has been fun. Although they haven’t been crowned Big 12 champions yet – that won’t be decided until this Saturday, when they play their final home game of the season against Kansas State – it’s hard to imagine they won’t at least share the title with Nebraska (disclosure: I teach and take some classes at UT).

It was a month ago that the Longhorns (22–3) put the country on notice with a “not in our house” night, showing the Cornhuskers the door with a 3–0 thrashing before a raucous sold-out crowd at Gregory Gym. They haven’t lost a match since. For that matter, they’ve barely lost a game. Whereas their hitting percentage (a stat comparable to a batting average in baseball) used to be about .280, this year the Longhorns, ranked No. 3 in the nation, are hitting around .360 with many nights above .400.

Whenever they get a chance to catch their breath, players and coach **Jerritt Elliott** all wind up saying more or less the same thing: “It’s really fun the way we’re playing. Everyone feels it.”

Fun. Not a word the smart guys on sports broadcasts use much. Instead, they make a fetish of statistics, forgetting to relish the giddy joy that a group of elite athletes, working in perfect synchronicity with one another, can generate.

But what’s most fun? “Definitely running a quick hit, just being able to bounce it straight down,” says **Lauren Paolini**, a 6-foot-5-inch junior. “It just brings so much energy. It’s like a clean slam dunk. It’s awesome.”

Whereas Paolini is wide-eyed after delivering one of these quick hits, as if surprised at just how good she really is, you get the feeling that sophomore **Destinee Hooker** doesn’t have an iota of doubt about her own talent. The team leader in kills and blocks (she’s also the NCAA high-jump champion), Hooker does this cocky shimmy with her shoulders after a breathtaking spike.

But Hooker and Paolini both know who deserves maximum credit for the team’s success: two-time All-American **Michelle Moriarty**. The senior setter isn’t much for giddy celebrations; she’s as circumspect as a banker. But getting a set from Moriarty is like getting handed money, Hooker says. She just knows she’ll be cashing in.

“When Destinee gets a set from Michelle, I just know the ball is going to go down,” marvels **Juliann Faucette**, a candidate for National Freshman of the Year. “There’s just like this aura on the court that nobody can stop us.”

FINAL HOME GAME KANSAS STATE

Saturday, Nov. 24, 6:30pm, Gregory Gym, University of Texas

Adult general admission: \$7
Senior citizen and youth: \$4

Sunday 25

ETHICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN Join the ESOA today for a presentation on the history of Thanksgiving. You’re invited to bring leftovers for the potluck as well as story of something you’re thankful for “that has made a difference in your life.” *10am. Laguna Gloria, 3809 W. 35th, 458-8191. Free. www.esoa.org.*

GRIEFSHARE A support group for anyone who has lost a loved one. *Sundays, 7-9pm. St. Paul Lutheran Church, 3501 Red River, 472-8301. www.griefshare.org.*

★ **HECHO A MANO FESTIVAL & ARTISTS MARKET** This new monthly event features arts and crafts shopping, live music, and more, with special highlights this month including a kids theatre performance (2pm; \$5, adults; \$3, kids), a panel discussion (**The Undocumented Worker: To Educate or Deny**), and a screening of the documentary *A Tejano Son of Texas*, which chronicles the life of Civil War Texas Ranger Policarpo Rodriguez. The filmmaker will be on hand along with sculptor Ishmael Soto, Rodriguez’s great-grandson. *11am-4pm. Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River St., 478-6222.*

★ **LAST SUNDAY** This monthly get-together features a salon-style mix of progressive politics, music, and spirituality. Today’s program focuses on **Immigration issues**, featuring speakers from the **Workers Defense Project** and a screening of the new short documentary “Hutto: America’s Family Prison.” Eliza Gillyson and Diasporic perform. *6:30-8:30pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 471-1990. \$8 suggested donation. www.workersdefense.org, www.thirdcoastactivist.org/lastsunday.html.*

RAMON MONCIVAIS discusses and signs copies of his book *Beneath the Shadow of the Capitol*, about discrimination against Hispanics in the Thirties, Forties, and Fifties. *11am-4pm. Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River St., 478-6222.*

TURKEY SHOOT Shoot at fake turkeys to win real ones – and other worthy meats! Your prowess at hitting paper turkey targets will determine how much turkey, ham, sausage, or bacon you get to bring home, but your generosity (priced at \$3 a round) determines how much this annual autumn event raises for **Lions Club charities**. *Through Nov. 25. Sundays, 2pm. Traffic light at Highway 290 & FM 212, Manor. www.manorlions.com.*

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.) **Lord of the Rings Trilogy Hobbit Feast** @ Alamo Ritz, 10:30am

MUSIC (See Music Listings.) **Rabbit Fist** The Parlor

Monday 26

AUSTIN BUTTERFLY FORUM’S ANNUAL SHOW & TELL features the insect and butterfly photography of forum members. *7pm. Zilker Botanical Garden, 2220 Barton Springs Rd., 477-8672. www.austinbutterflies.org.*

BEER EDUCATION SERIES: BEER & CHOCOLATE features craft brews and specially prepared truffles as you learn all about the magical combination of beer and dessert. *7pm. North by Northwest, 10010 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 467-6969. \$35.*

HOLIDAY WELLNESS: HAVE YOUR TURKEY & EAT IT TOO! Call ahead or register at the concierge desk for this nutrition tour conducted by dietitian Hannah Wong. *2-3pm. Whole Foods Market, 525 N. Lamar, 542-2243. \$5.*

★ **HOW TO RUN A CAR/TRUCK ON THE USED OIL OUTSIDE OF THE DONUT SHOP** A presentation from Craig Sommers on collecting and using waste cooking oil to fuel a diesel engine. *7pm. MonkeyWrench Books, 110 E. North Loop. Free.*

SCRABBLE SOCIETY *Mondays, 6:30-7:30pm. Cepeda Public Library, 651 N. Pleasant Valley, 974-7372. www.cityofaustin.org/library.*

TEXAS 42 DOMINO NIGHT *7pm. Ginny’s Little Longhorn Saloon, 5434 Burnet Rd., 458-1813. www.austin42club.com.*

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.) **My Name Is Albert Ayler** @ Alamo Ritz, 7pm **Paris, Texas** @ Texas Union Theatre, 7:30pm **Sound of Rio** @ Alamo Ritz, 10pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.) **Charalambides, Alasdair Roberts** *Mohawk* **AMH Open House** *Austin Music Hall* **D-Madness** *Ruta Maya*

Ongoing Events

★ **PLANNING A HOLIDAY OFFICE PARTY?** You should ask the SIMS Foundation for a little **Office Tune-Up** this year. They'll hook you up with a private concert from some great local bands, and in the meantime you'll be contributing to SIMS' continuing efforts to provide health and mental-wellness services to Austin's uninsured musicians. www.simsfoundation.org.

NAME AUSTIN'S NEWEST PARK The city is now accepting nominations of names for the new Downtown park that has opened near Lady Bird Lake (west of Palmer Events Center, between Riverside and Barton Springs Road). Your nomination must be accompanied by an explanation of why the name would be appropriate (if it references a person, please provide a brief bio explaining his or her connection to the community or to Austin parks). Deadline: Dec. 10. 974-6716. www.cityofaustin.org/parks/namingform.htm.

★ **TALK TIME** features conversation practice for English-language learners hoping to fine-tune their skills in a nonthreatening atmosphere. *Through Dec. 8. Tuesdays: 5-6:30pm, Ruiz Library, 1600 Grove; 7-8:30pm, University Hills Library, 4721 Loyola. Wednesdays: 7-8:30pm, Terrazas Library, 1105 E. Cesar Chavez. Thursdays: 7-8:30pm, St. John Library, 7500 Blessing; 7-8:30pm, Faulk Central Library, 800 Guadalupe. 974-7400.*

COATS FOR KIDS Outfit a child in need this winter with a new or gently used coat; you may drop coats off at any area Jack Brown cleaners. *Through Dec. 5. 467-8982 x231. www.jlaustin.org/coats, www.jackbrowncleaners.com/locations.htm.*

Tuesday 27

AUSTIN CZECH HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION POTLUCK Bring a tasty dish and join Pavla van Bibber for a presentation on making potato leek soup. *7pm. Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 200 W. Anderson. Free. www.austinczechs.com.*

AUSTIN IONS MEETING Austin IONS joins with the Scientific Anomalies Institute and the Mutual UFO Network this evening to bring you **UFO-logy 101**, a presentation on the history of UFO sightings, going all the way back to the age of cave art. *6:30pm. Austin History Center, 810 Guadalupe, 847-0371. Free. www.main.org/ionsaustin.*

BIG REDS & BUBBLES features signature dishes from 13 different chefs and samples of more than 75 big reds, sparkling wines, and Champagnes, along with a silent auction and an appearance from *Cooking With Marie* host **Marie Hejl**, who'll be signing copies of her new cookbook. Proceeds benefit the community education, scholarship, and grant programs of the **Wine & Food Foundation of Texas**. *6:30-9pm. The Driskill Hotel, 604 Brazos, 327-7555. \$75 (\$60, members). www.winefoodfoundation.org.*

CARDIAC HEALTH SCREENINGS feature a low-priced combination of services for your convenience. Call for appointment. *Fourth Tuesdays, 7:15-11am. Seton Medical Park Towers, 1301 W. 38th #510, 324-1037. \$32.*

COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS BENEFIT NIGHT When you shop at Ten Thousand Villages this evening, a portion of your proceeds will go to Communities in Schools. *5-9pm. Ten Thousand Villages, Austin store, 1317 S. Congress, 440-0440. www.cisaustin.org.*

DAY OF COMMUNITY REFLECTION CONFERENCE brings **Hospice Awareness Month** to a close with a series of talks about end-of-life care, with a focus on community resources and ways of providing meaningful services to the dying and the bereaved. *8am-4pm. ACC Eastview, 3401 Webberville, 452-5781 x212. \$30-50.*

★ **HEALTH CARE FOR ALL TEXAS** is Austin's first coalition working toward single-payer universal health care for all. Interested in joining their efforts? You can start with joining them for tonight's meeting. *7:30-8:30pm. Carver Library, 1161 Angelina, 669-2654.*

HERBS FOR THE URINARY SYSTEM Learn how herbs can help keep your bladder, kidneys, and urinary tract happy and healthy. *6:30-9:30pm. Austin School of Herbal Studies, 8803 Bear Creek, 301-5838. \$50. www.ezherbs.net.*

★ **HURRICANE RELIEF FOR NICARAGUAN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES** features a presentation on the relief efforts in Nicaragua since it was hit Sept. 4 with a category 5 hurricane. All donations received tonight will help **Amigos y Hermanos de Nicaragua** buy food and housing materials, replace livestock, and repair water systems in areas worst hit by the storm. *8pm. MonkeyWrench Books, 110 E. North Loop, 407-6925.*

OUTDOOR HATHA YOGA Bring your mat for this scenic class, taught daily on the docks overlooking the pond behind the Dougherty Arts Center. *Daily, noon-1pm; Mon., Wed., Fri., 5-6pm. Meet in the park behind Dougherty Arts Center. Donations accepted (10% goes to KIVA.org to help entrepreneurial projects in developing countries). onetoonewayoga@gmail.com.*

KEEP AUSTIN BEAUTIFUL AWARDS Who do you think deserves recognition for keeping Austin beautiful? Be sure to make your nomination soon – KAB Award winners will be honored at the annual awards luncheon in February, but the nomination deadline is almost here: Dec. 7. www.keeapaustinbeautiful.org.

THERMAL UNDERWEAR DRIVE Winter is rough on the homeless, even down here in sunny Texas. Luckily, it doesn't take much to help. One \$10 donation is enough to outfit someone with a thermal top and pair of pants this winter. To donate, call 796-4366 or send your check to *House the Homeless Inc., PO Box 2312, Austin, TX 78768. www.housesthehomeless.org.*

SANTA'S RANCH TRAIL OF LIGHTS This drive-through display features more than 1.5 million lights along a Christmas trail winding through 10 acres of holiday displays (including 300 different characters and 45 holiday scenes). *Nov. 9-Dec. 30. Sun.-Thu., 6-10pm; Fri.-Sat., 6-11pm. Santa's Ranch, 9561 N. I-35, New Braunfels, 830/743-1293. \$17 per vehicle (\$35, season pass). www.santasranch.net.*

BLANKET DRIVE Keep Austin Housed is currently accepting donations of new and gently used blankets and sleeping bags to help keep Austin's homeless warm this winter. Drop off locations include: *Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress; Waterloo Records, 600-A N. Lamar; Wheatsville, 3101 Guadalupe. Nov. 23-Dec. 2. www.frontsteps.org.*

ITALIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES A Taste of Italy's Elsa Gramola kicks off five Tuesday/Thursday Italian courses tonight: Italian for travelers, *5pm*; beginners, *6pm*; intermediate, *7pm*; advanced, *8pm*; conversation, *9pm. Nov. 27 & 29; Dec. 11 & 13. Far West Boulevard, 345-8941. \$100. www.atasteofitalyinaustin.com.*

KINSEI BRAIN CONDITIONING A talk from Dr. Matthew Buckley on cutting-edge, natural treatments for overcoming anxiety, depression, and insomnia. *7-8:30pm. Peoples Rx, 4018 N. Lamar, 327-1771. Free. www.kinseimindbody.com.*

★ **PHOTOJOURNALIST DARRYL HEIKES** The Center for American History hosts this reception featuring special guest Darryl Heikes, whose photos – capturing world events in politics and sports spanning 1959 to 2001 – are featured in the current Flatbed Press exhibit "A Deadline Every Minute: Photos from the Darryl Heikes Archive." *5:30-7:30pm. Flatbed Press, 2830 E. MLK, 477-9328. www.cah.utexas.edu.*

CODEPENDENTS ANONYMOUS (See Friday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.) **The Regular Lovers** @ Alamo Ritz, *7pm*

MUSIC (See Music Listings.) **Buttercup** Mohawk

Wednesday 28

★ **CHARTER REVISION COMMITTEE MEETING** explores the feasibility of two different districting options for Austin: single-member districts or a combination of single-member and at-large council seats. Your feedback is welcome. *5-7:30pm. Virginia L. Brown Recreation Center, 7500 Blessing Ave., 974-7593. Free. leslie.schneiwiss@ci.austin.tx.us, www.ci.austin.tx.us/charter.*

CITY COUNCIL MEET-AND-GREET Austin's **League of Women Voters** invites you to meet face-to-face with county commissioners and City Council members this evening. You'll also learn about the League's new program, the **Observer Corps**, which will monitor and report on the actions of county and city officials. Call to make your reservation. *5:30-7:30pm. 451-6710. \$25.*

INSIDE THE ARENA: THREE DECADES OF LEGENDS The Frank Erwin Center celebrates its 30th anniversary with a new, permanent photography exhibit chronicling three decades' worth of legendary athletes and entertainers, including Liberace, Tina Turner, B.B. King, Kevin Durant, Abe Lemons, and many others. Stop by for some birthday cake during half-time this week of the Texas vs. Texas Southern men's basketball game Wednesday or the Texas vs. UT-Arlington women's game Thursday. *Wed.-Thu., Nov. 28-29. Frank Erwin Center, 1701 Red River, 471-7744.*

LEARN ARABIC This weekly drop-in class offers an introduction to both written and spoken Arabic. Call to secure your seat (you need not commit to all sessions to register). *Wednesdays, 6-8pm. Ruiz Library, 1600 Grove, 974-7500. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library.*

MASSAGE SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE Interested in becoming a massage therapist? Come learn about the licensing programs at Lauterstein-Conway. Call to RSVP. *7-8pm. Lauterstein-Conway, 4701-B Burnet Rd., 374-9222. Free. www.tlcschool.com.*

METROPOLITAN BREAKFAST CLUB Thom Singer presents **Don't Take No for an Answer: How to Make Your Book a Reality**. *7-8:30am. UT Club, Darrell Royal Memorial Stadium, sixth floor, 2108 E. Robert Dedman, 479-9460. \$15 (members/first-time guests). www.mbcaustin.org.*

MIDWEEK AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET *Wednesdays, 3-7pm. The Triangle, 46th Street, between Guadalupe & Lamar. Free. www.austinfarmersmarket.org.*

NATURALIZATION CLINIC Learn how to apply for U.S. citizenship at this workshop hosted by the Political Asylum Project of Austin. *5:30pm. Goodwill Headquarters, 1015 Norwood Park Blvd., 478-0546. Free. www.papaustin.org.*

SCHOLARSHIP WORKSHOP Scholarships go unclaimed every year – learn how to find them and how to apply. *RSVP online. 6-7pm. 360 Training, 13801 N. MoPac #100, 745-7022. Free. www.nauaustin.com.*

CODEPENDENTS ANONYMOUS (See Friday.)

OFFSCREEN (See Arts Listings.) **The Network Austin Mixer** Mother Egan's Irish Pub

LITERA (See Arts Listings.) **An Evening With Rude Mechanicals** The Off Center

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.) **Paris Is Burning** @ Alamo South, *9:30pm* **Unforgiven Feast** @ Alamo Lake Creek, *7:30pm*

MUSIC (See Music Listings.) **Kill Me Tomorrow** Mohawk **Bill Baird, the Little Gentleman** Beerland

Thursday 29

CARITAS YOUNG PROFESSIONALS Caritas of Austin, which works to provide support to those in financial crisis, launches this new group tonight with an evening of complimentary food and drinks. *6-8pm. Daily Grill, 11506 Century Oaks Terrace #100. www.caritasofaustin.org.*

CHALLENGES FACING BOARDS OF DIRECTORS: KEY ISSUES IN SEC DISCLOSURE & ENFORCEMENT The Directors Roundtable and the National Leadership Institute host this educational workshop for nonprofit directors and advisers. *8:30-11am. Four Seasons Hotel, 98 San Jacinto, 323/660-0016. Free. www.directorsroundtable.com.*

SCHLOTZSKY'S BUN RUN T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST You could be the one who decides what 5,000 runners will be wearing in Schlotzsky's Bun Run 5K this spring – and win \$1,000 while you're at it. You may submit up to three designs; you must be at least 13 years old to participate. Mail entries to: *Schlotzsky's 2008 Bun Run T-Shirt Design Contest, 301 Congress #100, Austin, TX 78701. Deadline: Jan. 15. www.bunrun.com.*

★ **FRONT STEPS** is currently accepting donations of new and gently used blankets and sleeping bags to help keep Austin's homeless warm this winter. They're also seeking men's coats and jackets as well as new white socks and hygiene products. *Front Steps, 500 E. Seventh, 305-4174.*

ROUND ROCK SERTOMA CHRISTMAS TREE SALE Your Christmas-tree purchase could help someone with a speech or communication disorder this year – sales from this annual tree lot are expected to raise \$12,000-15,000 for the **Sertoma Safe Ears Project**. *Mon.-Fri., 5-9pm; Sat., 9am-9pm; Sun., 10am-9pm. Southeast corner of I-35 & FM 620, Round Rock, 512/225-4718. www.rsertoma.org.*

AUSTIN BLUES SOCIETY works to support the local blues scene and the musicians who contribute to it. Visit www.austinbluesociety.org to learn more about it, and call 473-3845 if you'd like to join.

★ **EVERGREEN FARMS** It's worth a trip out to Elgin to chop down your very own Virginia pine or Leyland cypress for your living room this year. Afterward, you can sit around the campfire, paint some pine cones, go on a hayride, play games, or enjoy the nature trail and farm animals. *Nov. 23-Dec. 24. Mon.-Fri., noon-dusk; Sat.-Sun., 9am-dusk. Evergreen Farms, 242 Monkey Rd., Elgin. www.evergreen-farms.com.*

GET MADE HAPPY HOUR features complimentary makeovers, massages, and tasty treats to go with your discounted shopping this evening. *7-9pm. Flirt, 2405 Nueces Ste. H, 472-4440. www.flirtinaustin.com.*

HOTELS OF TEXAS Looking for an out-of-the-ordinary place to stay when you're traveling this holiday season? Join Melissa Miller and Liz Carmack, co-authors of *Historic Hotels of Texas: A Traveler's Guide*, for a discussion of the many historic hotels throughout the state. *6-8pm. Women & Their Work, 1710 Lavaca, 477-1064.*

★ **HOUSING THAT WORKS, FOR PEOPLE & THE PLANET** American YouthWorks, YouthBuild, AmeriCorps, and Habitat for Humanity host this two-day symposium featuring information and hands-on workshops on green building, sustainable energy policies for affordable housing, materials selection, financing, code requirements, and more for anyone interested in learning about the benefits of energy efficiency. *Thu.-Fri., Nov. 29-30. Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River St., 236-6155. \$175 (\$100, one day). www.americanyouthworks.org/Conference_Details.htm.*

SPANGLISH 101 Both English and Spanish speakers are welcome at this once-a-week class that teaches both languages. *Thursdays, 5pm. 1303 S. Congress. Free. zen2ltd@yahoo.com.*

TEXAS CULINARY STUDENT ACADEMY DINNER Enjoy a four-course dinner tonight, paired with various wines from around the globe, lovingly prepared by the students of the Texas Culinary Academy. Partial proceeds benefit the **William Bower Foundation**, which provides funding for home hospice services. *7pm. Texas Culinary Academy, Ventana Dining Room, 11400 Burnet Rd. #2100. \$80.*

XMAS EXPO kicks off Gallery Lombardi's Christmas Group Show exhibit with a holiday-shopping bazaar featuring the fine works of more than 50 area artists. Items on sale will include ceramics, paintings, photography, mixed media, and hand-crafted items like jewelry, silk-screened T-shirts, and handbags. *7-10pm. Gallery Lombardi, 602 W. Seventh Ste. A, 481-1088. www.gallerylombardi.com.*

INSIDE THE ARENA: THREE DECADES OF LEGENDS (See Wednesday.)

THEATRE (See Arts Listings.) **Thom Pain (based on nothing)** Hyde Park Theatre

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.) **Gallery Lombardi, Women & Their Work**

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.) **Showgirls 2.0** @ Alamo Lake Creek, *7:30pm*

MUSIC (See Music Listings.) **Black Cobra** Red 7 **José González, Cass McCombs** The Parish **Vampire Weekend** Mohawk **Miró Quartet** Bates Recital Hall

arts listings

La Putain Avec les Fleurs

Salvage Vanguard Theater and Monarch Event Center,
through Dec. 1
Running Time: 1 hr, 20 min

While printing the title of *La Putain Avec les Fleurs* in English might be acceptable under today's publishing standards, doing so would mislead. This RoHo Theatre Company presentation doesn't aim to provoke or offend but to entertain, and it does exactly that, more often than not. In addition to implying a perhaps controversial idea, printing the title wouldn't encapsulate what the production actually is: a French clown show. Certainly, you can glean French from the title above, but you can't glean clown.

The show has a subtitle, as well – *A Junk Melodrama* – and it's appropriate that the play has two titles, because it's really a play-within-a-play – sort of. A French theatre company, Theatre des Funambules, has come to town to put on their clown show, which is about a man named Baptiste, a performer of the highest stature. Despite his success, Baptiste has grown weary of being a clown, so he goes on a search for meaning. He tries marriage, tries working a regular job, even tries becoming a monk (and does pretty well at it), until one day he returns to the theatre and finds that an old friend, another clown, has taken ill.

Directed by Rocky Hopson and filled with exactly what you would expect in a clown show – actors in whiteface, mime, shadow puppets, string puppets, broad physical humor, even a live sequence that, with the help of a strobe light, looks like a silent film – the entire production seems to emerge from a rather large box, which morphs into many more than a few different things (and on one occasion is just a box but a box containing a surprising, disturbing thing). The most entertaining thing about the show is the actors. Rob Houle

not only composed the music, played by a threepiece band that accompanies the show from beginning to end but also plays the narrator, Tabarin. With his bowler hat, pencil-thin mustache, and ever-present accordion, Houle delivers every line and note with an irony that would make Jack Nicholson envious. And for some reason that entirely escapes me, listening to an entire cast of actors speak in French accents is eminently pleasurable. Especially when they use the phrase “big French bear” (yes, there is a big French bear in the show). And even when one of those accents might, on occasion, sound Italian. Or even Hispanic.

Unlike any other Austin production in my memory, the current run of *La Putain* is playing at six different venues around the city. In an unfortunate circumstance, I could only attend a show at Beerland, on Seventh and Red River. While Beerland's ambience was generally quite appropriate, the noise of bands playing at nearby venues emerged through the walls and did nothing but distract and sometimes obscure the voices of the actors, particularly when they were singing. The production's remaining shows are at Salvage Vanguard Theater and the Monarch Event Center, either of which will prove a more appropriate venue for this quite distracting exercise in clowning.

– Barry Pineo

Theatre

OPENING

★ **THE SANTALAND DIARIES** David Sedaris' ascerbic holiday treat returns to Zach Scott with **Martin Burke** bringing his sharp wit and timing to the role of Crumpet, the disgruntled Macy's elf. Also featuring the excellent **Meredith McCall** and pianist **Jason Connor**, this is the sort of comedy that'll turn any coal in your stocking into diamonds. Directed by Dave “What the hell, I'll go ahead and open three shows at once!” Steakley. Nov. 23-Jan. 6. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Zachary Scott Theatre Center, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. \$33-43 (discounts available for students, seniors, large groups). www.zachscott.com.

ROCKIN' CHRISTMAS PARTY ZACH's annual, wintertime, Motown-inflected musical spectacular comes a-jingling and a-tinseling and a-sha-la-la-lai-ing back to the stage, with the Beehive Girls and friends decked out in their holiday finest and belting tunes fit to melt even the Grinch's permafrost heart. It's the Austin yuletide tradition that gets you dancing in the aisles, directed by Dave “Hardworkin'” Steakley. Nov. 23-Dec. 30. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Zachary Scott Theatre Center, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. \$38-45 (discounts available for students, seniors, large groups). www.zachscott.com.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL Of course someone's doing the Dickens for this coming season, and here it's the Palace in Georgetown with Alan Menken's Broadway musical version. Scrooge in New York City? Catchy songs and lots of dance numbers? Yes, and who among us would suggest it's all a bunch of humbug? Nov. 23-Dec. 23. Fri.-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 2pm. Palace Theatre, 810 S. Austin Rd., Georgetown, 512/869-7469. \$20 (\$18, seniors; \$8, students). www.thegeorgetownpalace.org.

RHINOCEROS Eugene Ionesco's absurd classic gets a sprightly revival by St. Ed's Transit Theatre

Troupe, directed by Maria Mealla. Wed.-Fri., Nov. 28-30, 5pm; Fri.-Sat., Dec. 7-8, 4pm. Extra show: Thu., Dec. 6, 5pm. Sorin Hall Building, St. Edwards University, 3001 S. Congress. Donations accepted.

THE ULTIMATE CHRISTMAS MUSICAL: THE MUSICAL! This offering, which may just be some sort of musical, is presented by your kinetically irrepressible friends at Yellow Tape Construction Company, as Jonathon Morgan directs a stage-stretching cast in a story about hope, love, togetherness, and the undeniable, supremely fantastic Spirit of Christmas. Tongue, we reckon, firmly in cheek. Choreographed by Amanda Butterfield and scored by the Other Tim Doyle. Ticket discounts are available if you engage in some costumed, yuletide antics. Thu.-Sat., 8pm, Nov. 29-Dec. 22. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$15-30. www.yellowtape.org.

THE NEOVAGINA MONOLOGUES Professor Sandy Stone, internationally renowned scholar and founder of UT's ACTLab, performs her series of monologues “inspired by Eve Ensler and Spalding Grey” exploring, among other things, postmodernism and the transgender experience. Nov. 29-Dec. 2. Thu.-Sun., 8pm. (Performance workshop: Sat., Dec. 1, 1-3pm.) The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. \$10-30 (\$20, workshop). www.vortexrep.org.

PLAID TIDINGS is Stuart Ross' holiday-themed sequel to the popular *Forever Plaid*, in which the male counterparts of Zach's Beehive Girls sing and dance their way through pop music standards in happy-footed, nostalgia-mining harmony. Tributes to the Rockettes, *The Ed Sullivan Show*, the Chipmunks, Harry Belafonte, and more are performed by the fantastic sweater-vested cast as Austin Haller tickles the yuletide ivories. Directed by Dave “Triple Threat” Steakley, with musical direction by Allen Robertson. Nov. 29-Dec. 30. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Zachary Scott Theatre Center, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. \$38-45 (discounts available for students, seniors, large groups). www.zachscott.com.

★ **THOM PAIN (BASED ON NOTHING)** Hyde Park Theatre's Ken Webster recently won the Austin Critics' Table award for Outstanding Lead Acting for

his performance of this Will Eno monologue masterpiece. We don't know whether to congratulate Webster on his triumph or the ACT on their good judgment, but, yeah, we heartily concur and recommend this encore performance of the show to anyone who likes intimate and darkly comedic work well done. Nov. 29-Dec. 22. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd, 479-PLAY. \$17 (\$15, students, seniors, ACoT; pay what you can, Thursdays). www.hydeparktheatre.com.

ONGOING

ROMEO AND JULIET Shakespeare's classic love story gets a go from the Velvet Rut Theatre under the direction of Japhy Fernandes. Nov. 29-Dec. 9. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. 1612 E. Seventh. Pay what you can.

DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER Marc Camoletti's French farce of mistaken identities, illicit love affairs, and haute cuisine is here adapted English-wise by Robin Hawdon, with a fine cast (David Stahl! Ben Wolfe! Andrea Osborne! Others!) directed by Don Toner for your theatrical comedy pleasure. Through Dec. 23. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. NB: No show on Thanksgiving Day. Extra show: Sat., Dec. 15, 2pm. Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress Bldg. C, 476-0084. \$24-28 (half price for students). www.austinplayhouse.com.

THE MISER Moliere's classic farce about a greedy, greedy man has been newly translated by David Chambers and now gets a Different Stages production under the direction of Karen Sneed. Featuring Norman Blumensaadt as the eponymous geltmonger. Through Dec. 2. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. NB: No show on Thu., Nov. 22. City Theatre, 3823 Airport Ste. D, 474-8497. \$15-30. www.main.org/diffstages.

LA PUTAIN AVEC LES FLEURS The “junk melodrama” from the RoHo Theatre Company returns – again! – with new twists and tricks and its usual complement of live music (the avant-garde band Bric-a-Brac), dance, puppets, dell arte, and that “big French bear,” to relate the tale of a clown with an existential crisis. Directed by Rocky Hopson.

Wed., Nov. 21, 8 & 11pm. The Parish, 214 E. Sixth. Also: Fri.-Sun., Nov. 23-25, 8pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 314-5002. Thu.-Sat., Nov. 29-Dec. 1, 8pm. Monarch Event Center, 6406 N. I-35 #3100, 314-5002. \$10. www.laputain.com

DINNER THEATRE

★ **BUBBA & BABE'S BACKWOODS WEDDING** is brought to you by the people responsible for **Esther's Follies**, and if you need a stronger recommendation than that, you haven't been in this town long enough, podner. Here's a dinner like no other, at which a hilarious Texas-tinted, low-rent adventure (rehearsal dinner, bachelor and bachelorette parties, the wedding itself) unfolds while you dine on five courses of gourmet comfort food. The performers are culled from the Follies' finest, together with new faces and even the working waitstaff. Live comedy, tasty vittles, and live music presided over by Esther's own Doug Ewart. Recommended. Wednesdays, Nov. 28; Dec. 5, 12, 19. Patsy's Cowgirl Cafe, 5001 E. Ben White, 444-2020. \$50 (\$95 per couple). www.patsycowgirlcafe.com.

AUDITIONS

THE RAINMAKER The Paradox Players are seeking actors for this N. Richard Nash romantic comedy, to be directed by Charles Hill. Needed: men (ages 20-60) and one woman (ages 30-40). Tue.-Wed., Nov. 27-28, 7:30pm. Howson Hall, Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover. 834-0298.

THEATRE CALL BOARD

FRONTERAFEST APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE Get on the schedule before all the slots are taken, thespian. See the Hyde Park Theatre website for downloadable applications for the 2008 FronteraFest Fringe Festival. www.hydeparktheatre.org.

Comedy

IN THE CLUBS

CAP CITY COMEDY CLUB 8120 Research #100, 467-2333. www.capcitycomedy.com.

Robert Hawkins The man from *Titus*? The man with more tour dates and TV appearances (Conan O'Brien, Comedy Central, on and on) than you could write on a hundred cocktail napkins? Yes, *him*, flying in from the Hawknest – and, boy, are his arms between his hands and his shoulders – for a week of hilarity, with Austin's own **Trey Galyon** opening. Nov. 27-Dec. 1. Tue.-Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm. \$5.50-44.95.

Mario DiGiorgio The local comic with a couple of funny books to his credit brings his strange stuffata to the Cap City stage. Big bonus: **Lucas Molendez** opens. Nov. 22-24. Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm. \$5.50-44.95.

Open Mic Comedy Seasoned pros and up-and-comers knock themselves out to benefit the Austin Children's Shelter. Sundays, 8pm. \$2 (free, college students).

COLDTOWNE THEATRE 4803 Airport.

www.coldtowne.com.

Now This Is Improv! The Biggest Shopping Day of the Year is a free comedy variety show to help you recover from the excess of tryptophan you crammed past your maw and into the moist and ruddy pit of your distended gut the day before. Friday, 8pm. **That Other Paper presents ... Punchline.** The popular stand-up showcase continues, fracturing funny bones every week-end. Fridays, 10pm. **Stool Pigeon** features a mystery guest in a sort of modified Armando, thus jump-starting the shenanigans that ensue. This week's guest is the Alamo Draffhouse's thickly bearded Weird Wednesdays honcho, **Lars Nilsen**. Saturdays, 8pm. **ColdTowne** The mighty house troupe rocks your night with fierce improv as only they can create it. Their guests this week are recent Coldtowne Conservatory grads **Midnight Society**. Saturdays, 10pm.

ESTHER'S POOL 525 E. Sixth, 320-0553.

www.esthersfollies.com.

Esther's Follies: World Gone Wild The most popular troupe in town returns with their riotous musical send-ups of local and national politics and cultural phenomena, making already hot topics burn with a bright comic intensity, with the incredible and – *ai! ai! ai!* – spicy illusions of master magician **Ray Anderson**. Thrills! Chills! Ripped-from-the-headlines events turned into comedy gold! *Reservations highly recommended.* Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 8 & 10pm. \$20 (discounts available Thursdays & Fridays for seniors, students, military). Additional \$5 for special reserved seats.

Banana Puddin' Time Tom Booker, comedy impresario from L.A., has moved to Austin and is running this new show at Esther's Pool: A mixture of comedic sketches, improv, stand-up comedy, and silly songs. Austin's most entertaining talents are promised, and you'll get free banana pudding with each paid admission. Thursdays, 9:30pm. \$9.95.

THE HIDEOUT THEATRE 617 Congress,

443-3688. www.hideouttheatre.com.

You want some laughs with that? Yes, Austin happily boasts two epicenters of great improv, and this – the *original*, y'might say – is one of them. It's totally Downtown, too, for your sense of humor-and-awe's convenience:

Friday: It's Threerfe Madness time, with **Venn Diaphragm**, **BuBu Lubu**, and **Polite Society**. 8pm. \$10. Then you've got a Double Barrel waiting for you, featuring **I Snood Bear** and **Massive**. 10pm. \$10.

Saturday: Beam us home, Scotty, here's the return of **Start Trekkin'**! Every week a different captain, a different crew, a different narrative where no improvisers have gone before. Hear that spinning sound? That's Gene Roddenberry, gravewise, as on a warp-drive rotisserie. Recommended. 8pm. \$10. **Maestro** is a fierce, multipartite battle for supremacy among improvisers, scored by you, the audience. *Highly recommended.* 10pm. \$10.

VELVEETA ROOM 521 E. Sixth, 469-9116.

www.thevelvetaroom.com.

Trey Galyon The gallivanting Galyon, smarter than he looks and twice as funny, returns to the Cheese Palace where he got his start. And this time, he's got **Brian Gutman** and **Sean Mooney** opening for him. Fri.-Sat., Nov. 23-24, 9:30 & 11:30pm. \$5.

BUT WAIT – THERE'S MORE!

EGO'STRIP All hail the new improv venue in town, featuring a supergroup handpicked by the Frank Mills' own **Dave Buckman**. They'll amaze you with longform work, then lead the audience in improv games, right there in one of the city's favorite watering holes. Huzzah! Wednesdays, 9-10:30pm. Ego's, 510 S. Congress, 474-7091. \$5.

Dance

YOGA/DANCE TEMPLE: EBB & FLOW Sarah Brumgart performs a 75-minute improvisational dance to the music of "Koyaanisqatsi" (Philip Glass) to enact the universal cycle of birth, life, and death. Prior to each performance, Brumgart teaches a master class, Studies in Motion and Stillness. Through Nov. 25. Sundays, 2-4pm (class), 5-7pm (performance). A private home, directions given with reservations. 241-1915. \$35, class; \$25, performance; \$50, both. www.sarahbrumgart.com.

SPANK DANCE COMPANY AND THOLLEM MCDONAS: IMPROVISATIONAL PERFORMANCE, DANCE, AND MUSIC Austin's Spank Dance Company joins forces with San Francisco musician McDonas for an evening of improvisation in sound and movement. McDonas performs on the piano, accompanying about a dozen contemporary dancers. Spank's artistic director, Ellen Bartel, has designed a movement "score" – a menu of 18 different tasks for the dancers and pianist to interpret as they wish. Please bring seating, no shoes allowed in the studio. Mon., Nov. 26 8:30pm. Clear Spring Studio, 605 Copeland. 231-9664. Donation requested. www.spankdance.com.

TWO LEFT FEET

DANCE INTERNATIONAL Open to all, these ballroom and Latin sessions are a great way to practice or learn new steps. Each night features a variety of dances; each month sees the start of a new, progressive course. No partner necessary. Sundays, 6-8pm. **Dancers Workshop**, 183 & Balcones Woods. Weeknights, times vary. Hills Fitness Center, 4615 Bee Caves Rd. 32-DANCE. Fees vary. www.dancein.org.

CONTEMPORARY CLOGGERS: APPALACHIAN CLOG DANCING The Contemporary Cloggers offer beginners classes in this American folk dance form that looks like a cross between Irish, tap, and square dancing. No partner needed. Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30pm. 7402 Brodie. 292-1030.

BELLY-DANCE CLASSES Twyla of Twyla & the Twilight Star Ensemble offers a variety of belly-dance classes out in Leander. Class times vary. Mon.-Wed., 7:30-9:30pm; Fri., by appt. 971-0188. www.twylabellydance.com.

BELLY-DANCE CLASSES Learn traditional and classical Egyptian techniques in this fun and fast-paced class. 512/750-7037. \$13 per class; \$66 for six classes. www.desertpassion.com.

DANCE DANCE PARTY PARTY: NO BOYS ALLOWED Building on a hot phenomenon in NYC, Chicago, and L.A., this is a weekly get-together for ladies who want to dance their asses off for an hour and a half. The goal is exercise, but there's no teacher to follow, so you can shake it however you wanna: No boys, no judgment. Sundays, 6-7:30pm. Niaspace, 3212 S. Congress. \$5. www.ddppaustin.wordpress.com.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The *Austin Chronicle* is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date.

The deadline for the Dec. 7 issue is Monday, Nov. 26. Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Include SASE for return of materials.

Send submissions to the attention of the appropriate writer (see roster below). Mail to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin 78765, fax 458-6910, or e-mail:

Wayne Alan Brenner, theatre, comedy.
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Ric Williams, litera. litera@austinchronicle.com.

Benné Rockett, visual arts. art@austinchronicle.com.

Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, listings editor.
brenner@austinchronicle.com.



LA PUTAIN AVEC LES FLEURS
www.LAPUTAIN.com
Times, Tix, Info and More!

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Footprints

Helm Fine Arts Center at St. Stephen’s Episcopal School, Nov. 17

Where in the world was Tapestry Dance Company?

That was the question last weekend when the multiform troupe went multicultural for the opening production of its 2007-2008 season. The eight dancers in *Footprints* appeared onstage in vivid costumes far removed from the everyday casual or cowboy chic of their hometown. While not specific to any single culture, the sleek silk outfits by designer Buffy Manners – each in a different jewel or earth tone, with sleeveless tunics for the women and vests for the men – placed these performers half a world away from Austin. And the presence of Indian classical dancer Anuradha Naimpally onstage with them and world-music ensemble Atash playing live behind them reinforced our sense of being in some distant land.

But the notion that these Western dancers belonged in this Eastern setting was a hard one to buy, at least initially. In the opening number, when the company members followed Naimpally’s elegant, precise, and distinctly Indian movements with steps and gestures right out of this country’s modern-dance tradition or, more incongruously still, classic rhythm tap while wearing modern black tap shoes, the result was more culture clash than fusion. And with almost everyone in the company being Anglo and the through-line of the piece having Naimpally serve as sage mentor to the dancers as they found their place in the larger world, the effect was a little like young Americans slumming on foreign soil.



However, as the show progressed on the seductive rhythms spooled out by Atash’s instrumentalists and Mohammad Firoozi’s vocals, the choreography and even the dancers themselves seemed to become more deeply integrated with the other cultural elements in the production. Midway through, Jason Janas, Tony Merriwether, and Matt Shields joined forces for a powerhouse number choreographed by Artistic Director Acia Gray, and while the piece was straight-up rhythm tap, its syncopation and the men’s intense energy and teamwork made these guys like a trio of warrior *djinns* right out of *1,001 Arabian Nights*. By the time Janas, Tasha Lawson, and Siobhan Cook blasted through “Feeling,” creating percussive rhythms as they danced by slapping their hands on hands, chests, biceps, hips, thighs, and more, the borders between West and East seemed to have faded away. The sounds and steps might have belonged to any culture – or *all* cultures.

In the two numbers that followed to conclude the show, different cultural styles reasserted themselves somewhat with Naimpally returning to center stage as the company surrounded her with tap. This time, though, the disparate elements all blended sweetly together, bound with the energetic sounds of Atash into a jubilant unity. All became one in the beating of the rhythm and joyful movement of the feet in time. And that’s as it should be, right? For when the dancing ends and all that’s left are footprints of those who danced, who’s to say by looking which feet came from where?

– Robert Faires

AUSTIN BALLROOM DANCERS ABD sponsors ballroom dancing with DJ-ed music weekly, year-round. *Saturdays, 8-11pm; minilesson, 7:30pm. Austin Recreation Center, 1301 Shoal Creek Blvd., 989-3939. www.austinballroomdancers.org.*

CONTACT IMPROVISATION DANCE JAMS Participants move in and out of contact with one or more people through a common center of gravity. All are welcome. *Tuesdays, 8-10pm; Sundays, 4:30-6pm. Austin Yoga School, 1122-C S. Lamar. \$5.*

SCOTTISH BALLROOM DANCING Learn the ballroom dances of Scotland, lads and lassies: lively jigs and reels and elegant strathspeys; no partner needed but couples welcome. *Thursdays, 7-8:30pm. Quicksilver Dance Center, 8711 Burnet Rd. Ste. H-100. 327-2869. First class free.*

LUCILA DANCE PRODUCTIONS: CLASSES FORMING Classes are forming now in belly dancing (all levels), flamenco, salsa/merengue, hip-hop, creative movement for kids 5 to 10 years old, and tai chi. *Lucila Dance Studio, 1700 S. Lamar. 416-8800. www.luciladance.com.*

ESTUDIO FLAMENCO Get fired up with flamenco dance classes for beginners and intermediates. Handy central location to boot. Call for times. *2801 W. 45th, 382-1366. \$10 per class (private lessons available). www.estudioflamenco.com.*

MODERN DANCE CLASSES Ellen Bartel of Spank Dance Company leads a series of classes in modern dance (all levels). *Times and prices vary, see the Tapestry website for details. Tapestry Dance Company studios, 2302 Western Trails. www.tapestry.org.*

SOLID CHROME DANCERS Dance in a real honky tonk! Learn the Texas two-step and Western swing. Singles and couples welcome to these ongoing classes. *Thursdays, 8pm. Broken Spoke, 3201 S. Lamar, 417-7383. \$8. www.myspace.com/solidchromedancers.*

AUSTIN SCANDINAVIAN DANCING Turning and improvised couple dancing for beginning to advanced dancers. No partners needed; wear slick-soled shoes. *Thursdays 7:30-9:45pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 454-0598. \$3. www.austinscandi.org.*

AUSTIN BARN DANCERS: CONTRA DANCE With live music. *Wednesdays, 7:30pm. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 453-4225. \$3. www.ci.austin.tx.us.*

NIA CLASSES The Nia Technique is a high-powered energizing workout inspired by dance, martial arts, and healing arts. Build strength, gain flexibility, find health, and have fun! The first class is free. *Mon. & Fri., 9:30-10:30am; Mon. & Thu.,*

6-7pm; Sat., 10:30am. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 922-1581. \$10 each class, discounts available. www.ci.austin.tx.us.

AUSTIN INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS Start out a fun evening learning a variety of couples and line dances from around the world before giving it a whirl during the open dance session. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. No partner required. *Saturdays, 7:30pm (lessons); open dance 8:15-11pm. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 481-9362. \$5. www.aifd.cc.*

BEGINNER ARGENTINE TANGO Laura Pellegrino leads beginners through the fundamentals of this popular dance. *Tuesdays, 8-9:15pm. NiaSpace, 3212 S. Congress, 443-3013. Call for rates. www.tangointexas.com.*

AUSTIN GAY/LESBIAN SALSA GROUP Welcome this free group that invites gays/lesbians who want

to learn (or already know) how to salsa to gather and dance. *Wednesdays. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free. www.groups.yahoo.com/group/austingaysalsa.*

FOUR ON THE FLOOR: CLASSES Ongoing classes for various levels of expertise in swing and Lindy Hop culminate in a weekly dance. New classes usually start the first Tuesday of the new month. *Tuesdays, 7pm (classes), 9:30pm (open dance). Texas Federation of Women’s Clubs Ballroom, 2312 San Gabriel, 453-3889. Prices vary. www.fouronthefloor.com.*

AUSTIN SWING SYNDICATE A couple hundred swingers hit the dance floor once a week for DJ-spun sounds of past blasts. A beginners’ lesson starts the evening. *Thursdays, 8pm-12mid. Texas Federation of Women’s Clubs Ballroom, 2312 San Gabriel, 476-5845. \$4 (\$2, members). www.austinswingsyndicate.org.*



Classical Music

OPENING

MUSICA ECCLESIAE: MUSIC FOR TRUMPET This series of Downtown performances brings some of the area’s best classical music to St. Mary’s soaring sanctuary. This month features acclaimed trumpeter Nathaniel Mayfield, joined by organist Philip E. Baker and soprano Claire Vangelisti for a kickoff to the holiday season. *Sat., Nov. 24, 8pm. Cathedral of St. Mary, 203 E. 10th, 472-4540.*

CHAMBER SOLOISTS OF AUSTIN: A BAROQUE THANKSGIVING This annual conductorless chamber orchestra program features music by Bach, Telemann, and Vivaldi. Stephen Redfield, violin, leads the ensemble and performs soloist duties; Douglas Harvey and Amy Levine Tsang, cellists both; and flutist Karl Kraber also feature as soloists. *Sat., Nov. 24, 8pm. First Presbyterian Church, 8001 Mesa, 380-0065. \$20 (\$10, students). www.chambersoloists.com.*

UT SCHOOL OF MUSIC Bach Cantata Project UT’s School of Music and the Blanton Museum of Art present the second season of the Bach Cantata Project. UT faculty and student musicians present a cantata, along with a short description of the work. This month features “*Wachet auf, ruft die Stimme*,” BWV 140. *Tue., Nov. 27, noon. Blanton Museum of Art. \$7 (\$5, seniors; \$3, students; free, members, current UT ID-holders, ages 11 and younger). Miró Quartet: “The Dark and Light Side of America”* UT’s resident faculty string quartet plays a pair of evenings, illuminating our fair land’s bipolar (chiaroscuroic?) state through works by the likes of local composer P. Kellach Waddle, John Zorn, George Crumb, Charles Ives, Kevin Puts, and Antonin Dvorak. Thursday’s performance showcases the Dark Side, and the Friday performance the Light Side. *Thu.-Fri., Nov. 29-30, 8pm. Bates Recital Hall. \$17 (\$15, UT faculty, staff; \$10, students). 471-5401. www.music.utexas.edu.*

ST. EDWARD’S UNIVERSITY: VOCAL CELEBRATION Applied Voice students perform works ranging from opera to musical theatre. *Tue., Nov. 27, 7:30pm. Maloney Room, Main Building, St. Edward’s University. Free.*

◀ The Chamber Soloists of Austin present “A Baroque Thanksgiving” this Saturday.

Visual Arts

EVENTS

THE BLANTON: BACH CANTATA PROJECT features the UT Choral Program with Bach's "Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme," BWV 140. *Tue., Nov. 27, noon. MLK & Congress, 471-7324. www.blantonmuseum.org.*

OPENING

GALLERY LOMBARDI: X-MAS EXPO Local artists exhibit their unique and funny wares and fine art. Shop locally for great holiday gifts with urban flavor. Reception: *Thu., Nov. 29, 7-10pm*. Exhibition: *Nov. 29-Jan. 12. 602 W. Seventh Ste. A, 481-1088. www.gallerylombardi.com.*

WOMEN & THEIR WORK: PATTERN PATTERN PATTERN Lisa Choinacky and Katherine McQueen have curated an excellent group show for the holiday season. Reception: *Thu., Nov. 29, 6-8pm*. Exhibition: *Through Jan. 5. 1710 Lavaca, 477-1064. www.womenandtheirwork.org.*

CLOSING

BUTRIDGE GALLERY: WAR – ARTISTS RESPOND More than 50 Central Texas artists explore their reactions to war in this stirring exhibition organized by Austin sculptor Leo Eckroth. Recommended, especially in these times of egregious terror-mongering. *Through Nov. 27. 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 397-1468.*

ART PALACE: THE BOOK OF LENNY The first part of an epic trilogy, "The Book of Lenny" chronicles the journey of Jonathan Marshall's everyman as he navigates a postapocalyptic landscape aided by a cast of characters that include a Bear and a heavily mustachioed Man in Black. *Through Nov. 24. 2109 Cesar Chavez, 496-0687. www.artpalacegallery.com.*

RUSSELL COLLECTION: MICHAEL KESSLER Here's "a masculine show of substantial abstract landscapes" to enliven your Downtown browsing. *Through Nov. 24. Russell Collection, 1137 W. Sixth, 478-4440. www.russell-collection.com.*

GALLERY LOMBARDI: POKEY This group exhibition is based on a highly personal sense of Americana, as explored by five featured artists. *Through Nov. 24. 910 W. Third, 481-1088. www.gallerylombardi.com.*

BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART: ALBRECHT DÜRER This exhibition features more than 100 works by the artist, including a selection from the Blanton's collection of European prints and drawings. *Through Nov. 25. MLK & Congress, 471-7324. www.blantonmuseum.org.*

ONGOING

EYE CONTACT ART showcases the work of Joshua Garcia and others. 12400 Amherst #102, 825-8577. www.eyecontactart.com.

GALLERY POLLOCK: BILL D. FRANCIS The UT professor emeritus presents his finest prismatic works. 2620-C S. Lamar, 804-2667. www.gallerypollock.com.

COME ON FEEL THE WHATEVER features new work by Anthony Romero, Jess Minckley, Scott Jackson, J. DeFrese, Ryan Lauderdale, Jeff Hauger, Greg Piwonka, and Spirit Wanderer. *Through Nov. 30. Peter Center, Concordia University, 3400 N. I-35. www.concordia.edu.*

CORONADO STUDIOS The Serie Project, a non-profit Latino arts organization hosted by Coronado Studios, produces, promotes, and exhibits serigraph prints created by diverse artists. 6601 Felix, 385-3591. www.serieproject.org.

YOUNG LATINO ARTISTS: EMBRACING CHAOS *Through Feb. 23. Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River, 478-6222. www.ci.austin.tx.us.*

AUSTIN GALLERIES: 20TH CENTURY MASTERS Original lithographs, etchings, intaglios, and screen prints by Marc Chagall, Salvador Dalí, Pablo Picasso, and more. 1219 W. Sixth.

LOTUS GALLERY: EYES ON PARIS Paintings by Richard Ewen capture the essence of Parisian store interiors. *Through Nov. 30. 1211 W. Sixth, 474-1700. www.lotusasianart.com.*

1906 GALLERY: PORTRAIT OF A REFUGEE This is the last exhibition for the 1906 Gallery, and it's a hell of a fine one. It features new works by Mirak Jamal, the fierce artist and former Austinite whose family was forced out of the U.S. – they're

'The Book of Lenny'

Art Palace, through Nov. 24

Chapter 1
"The Book of Lenny"

In a house-cum-gallery, on the east, Eastside of town ...

Finely crafted drawings and sculptures illustrate a bearded fellow, a man in black, and a growling bear guiding a young hero aboard a rickety vessel. *Cough* *Star Wars* *cough*. A video elucidates the mystical meetings where Lenny, our everyman, receives a Weiriding module, light-saber, and the One Ring – oh wait, I mean a sextant, a stargazer, and a flag to initiate his journey. A fluent conversation unfolds as the bear snarls nonsense and Lenny whistles a vaguely familiar tune in response. Later at night, the Man in Black suddenly appears and maintains a Cheshire Cat smirk, until he, just as suddenly, disappears. And so we watch Lenny pedal his boat off into the unknown of the horizon.

The *Star Wars* comparison is only a half-rib. It is documented that George Lucas heavily referenced Joseph Campbell's work in his popular space opera, and Campbell's hero-myth formula is also evident in Jonathan Marshall's show, as well as in the monumental narratives used by some of Marshall's

contemporaries – Seth Alverson and *Chronicle* contributing illustrator Peat Duggins, both of whom have shown at Art Palace, immediately come to mind. Reading the press release for "The Book of Lenny" before the show's opening, descriptions of a postapocalyptic setting suggested a revisiting of Alverson's barbaric setting. Peat Duggins, another artist I accused of riffing on the Skywalker saga, described a colorful set of characters that manifested in drawing, sculpture, and video. Justin Boyd's recent run at the Arthouse Texas Prize featured an installment of a multichaptered project spanning the same three mediums but mining an expansive history from geographic landmarks focused on a more factual odyssey. At the beginning of the year, the Blanton Museum's WorkSpace presented the final installment of an apocalyptic trilogy by Matthew Day Jackson, whose intertwining of autobiography and history helped point to some ideas of social reconciliation.

I am willing to bet that none of these artists has experienced anything like the war and poverty of the early 20th century that affected J.R.R. Tolkien, Robert E. Howard, or any of the Jewish immigrants who Americanized their names before creating today's iconic superheroes.



So what drives our young artists to address, sometimes directly, historical and current events in the form of elaborate "alternate" worlds employing multiple incarnations? Well, if they grew up on a diet of Hasbro-, LJN-, and Mattel-licensed products as I did, then I have an idea. Unable to tackle a defensive lineman for real, we're Monday-morning quarterbacks who do so playing *Madden NFL* on the PlayStation. This is a form of play given to us through licensing and merchandising. We create parallel worlds where we have ultimate control, and our reign can be as destructive or benevolent as we wish.

In "The Book of Lenny," the boat is very much part of the main installation, but the other sculptures in the exhibit feel less useful. They are situated as relics or props of the video production. It's almost like the "Star Wars: The Magic of Myth" exhibition that visited Houston six years ago. But let's not get too cynical yet. Marshall has chosen the side of good as he has Lenny accept the call, and the rubble in the side gallery appears to be fodder for the construction of the bike boat. The characters are helpful thus far, ushering in the call in the drawings and providing tools to guide Lenny. Colorful laser lines seem to have become prevalent elements in art, and in the gallery they point toward Lenny's horizon. Just as Sam and Frodo crossed the Anduin without the Fellowship, "Lenny" embarks on the next chapter of the trilogy. So you know there's gonna be a box set.

– Salvador Castillo

Holm. 1510½ S. Congress, 442-3600. www.avenuegallerysoco.com.

BLUE MOON GLASSWORKS Unique handmade glass art and jewelry. 5241 N. Lamar, 380-0770. www.austinbluemoon.com.

STATE HISTORY MUSEUM: IN CITIZEN'S GARB features an exhibition on "Southern Plains Native Americans, 1889-1891." *Through Jan. 6, 2008. 1800 Congress, 936-8746. www.thestoryoftexas.com.*

THE CATHEDRAL OF JUNK is approximately 60 tons of junk wired together over 15 years to form intricate towers and rooms in the back yard of a, we guess you might say, average South Austin home. Hours: *Sundays, 11am-2pm, or by appt. 4422 Lareina, 299-7413. www.keeapaustinweird.com.*

CRL: COLLABORATION FROM CONCEPTION explores the process of artists combining efforts to create art with a collective idea or common interest in mind. This is especially exciting because the artists participating here are Sodalitas (Shea Little, Joseph Phillips, and Jana Swec), Stephanie Bonham, Art Silva, Katalin Hausel, Jaclyn Pryor, and Leanne Zacharias. Artist talk: *Tue., Dec. 4, 6-8pm. Exhibit: Nov. 17-Dec. 22. 2832 E. MLK, 322-2099.*

DAVIS GALLERY: PAINTAN This guest curated show includes the works of Stella Alexi, Ethan Azarian, Jennifer Balkan, David Elliot, Valerie Fowler, Bonnie Gammill, David Leonard, Christopher St. Leger, Andy St. Martin, and Jana Swec. *Through Dec. 1. 837 W. 12th, 477-4929.*

DIBONA STUDIO Oil paintings and "sculptural tattoos" by Joyce DiBona. 404 W. Milton, 851-2646.

ELSE MADSEN GALLERY: GREECE ON FIRE New work by the Painterly Handsomes (Troy Allen, Chris

Holloway, Cody Scrogum, and Fred Tabares). *Through January 6. 411 Brazos #99. www.elsemadsen.com.*

LA PEÑA: LULA MARCONDES Vibrant narrative graphics to delight your eyes and sense of story. *Through Dec. 23. 227 Congress, 477-6007.*

MEXIC-ARTE MUSEUM: FROM REVOLUTION TO RENAISSANCE Following the 1910 revolution, Mexico witnessed an explosion of creativity, exemplified in this show curated by James Oles and featuring the important modern Mexican art collection of Lance and Erika Aaron: works by master artists David Alfaro Siqueiros, Rufino Tamayo, Maria Izquierdo, and Olga Costa. *Through Dec. 31. 419 Congress, 480-9373. www.mexic-artemuseum.org.*

MITCHIE'S FINE BLACK ART has an eclectic selection of African and African-American artwork and craft items on display. 6406 N. I-35 #2800, 323-6901. www.mitchie.com.

THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL EPHEMERATA: GHOSTS Take a curator-led tour of "The Orbs of Ghost Road," Pepper's Ghost diorama, ectoplasm from the M. Ravi archives, ghost photos, and other objects on loan from the Austin community. *Call for appt. 1808 Singleton, 320-0566. www.mnae.org/collection/ghosts.php.*

NEW EAST ARTS: MUSIC, POLITICS, FUN presents new creations of found-object sculpture, glasswork, and painting by returning artist David Zvanut from Commerce, Texas. *Through Nov. 30. 1601 E. Fifth #106, 477-9438. www.diversearts.org.*

SHORELINES GALLERY: SUE KEMP Watercolors from nature. 221 W. Second, 322-9961. www.shorelinesgalleryaustin.com.



Beautiful works of oil on panel (*Portrait of a Coyote* pictured here) by Martha Gannon, currently on display at Wally Workman Gallery

★ **SLUGFEST: MATT REBHOLZ** Here's the artist's newest work: A series of etchings called "The Golem," well worth witnessing for its narrative power alone – to say nothing of the compelling visuals. *Through Dec. 16. 1906 Miriam, 477-7204.*

TOTALLY COOL/TOTALLY ART features more than 800 works from local teens who participate in the citywide program. *South Austin Recreation Center, 1100 Cumberland, 444-6601.*

TEXAS FOLKLIFE – LA LABOR: THE PAINTINGS OF ROEL FLORES Flores, the first-generation American son of Mexican immigrants, was 15 when he became a full-time migrant worker and began playing bajo-sexto with a conjunto band on weekends. He fills his acrylic paintings with images of fields, sunsets, instruments, and other aspects of his life as a Tejano in South Texas. *Through Dec. 21. 1317 S. Congress. www.texasfolklife.org.*

WALLY WORKMAN: MARTHA GANNON Gannon's work is also part of AMOA's permanent collection; here's an excellent venue to view it in. *Through Dec. 1. 1202-B W. Sixth, 472-7428.*

SPACES

FLIPNOTICS: THE VISUAL WOLFY Todd V. Wolfson, photog extraordinaire, presents 13 new works of "musicians, artists, people: beyond candid." *Flipnotics @ the Triangle, 4600 Guadalupe, 380-0097. www.flipnotics.com.*

GUTTERKITTY STUDIOS: THE AUSTIN FIGURATIVE PROJECT Paintings by some of Austin's best. *102 Krebs. ohlerkingpaintings@yahoo.com.*

ARTWORKS GALLERY Tropical butterflies displayed in plexiboxes designed by G.W. Clark. *1214 W. Sixth, 472-1550.*

THE GREEN MUSE The works of J. Lowry Doile. *519 W. Oltorf, 912-7789.*

HANG UPS: THE MANIPULATORS An exhibition of works by four Texas artists working in bronze, steel, precious metals, enamels, and concrete. *Through Nov. 30. 2300 Lohmans Crossing Rd., 263-9333.*

CORNERS OF THE WORLD: INTERNATIONAL CENTER Paintings by Czech Republic-born Marcela Kourkova. *Through Jan. 1. 201 E. Second. cotwart@gmail.com.*

ROADHOUSE RELICS Vintage neon, carnival banners, and other tributes to U.S. popular culture, by Todd Sanders. *1720 S. First, 442-6366. www.roadhouserelics.com.*

SHORELINE GRILL Mixed media constructions by Joseph Hammer and Randall Reid, with sculpture by George McFarland. *Through Jan. 5. 98 San Jacinto, 477-3300. www.shorelinegrill.com.*

VIN BISTRO: MARTHA KEATING "Found Objects," collage on paper. *Through Nov. 26. 1601 W. 38th.*

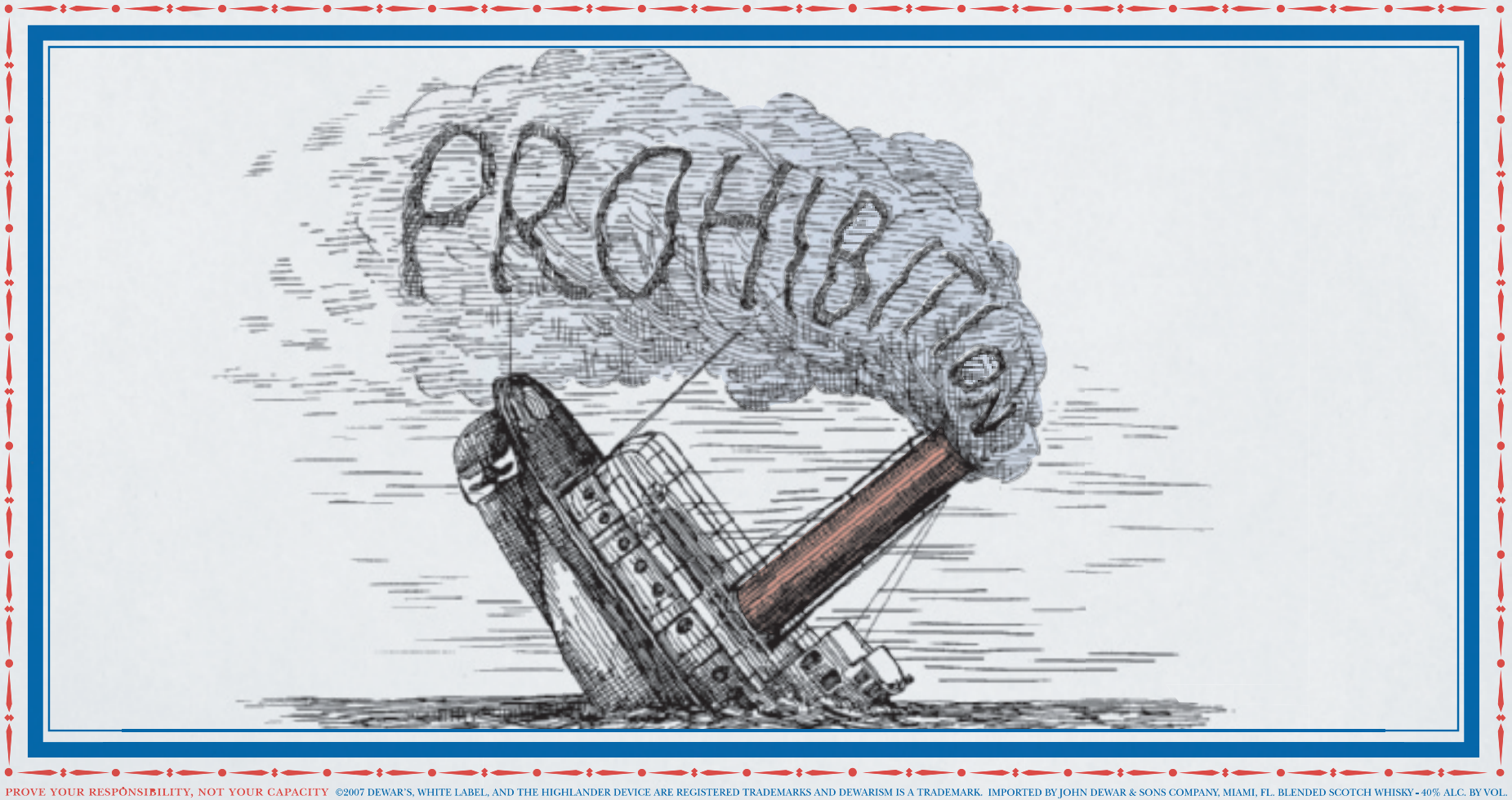
CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

IDEA GALLERY: WOMEN IN THE STUDIOS Studio space for woman artists will be available the first of December. Contact: *Deanna Miesche, 699-4811; 701 Tillery, 921-7744.*

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES CALL FOR WORKS The application procedures and details of the Call for Artworks are available on the Art in Public Places website at www.cityofaustin.org/aipp. All applications must be submitted online via the ASAP! online public art application system, with up to five digital images of the artists' available artwork. Deadline: *Fri., Jan. 4, 2008. 301 W. Second, 974-9314. www.cityofaustin.org.*

AUSTIN FIGURATIVE GALLERY: SELF PORTRAIT Get your work onto a 20-inch-by-16-inch vertical unframed canvas, and you're in the exhibition. Deadline: *Feb. 29, 2008. 301 Chicon Unit F, 296-6624. www.austinfigurativegallery.com.*

HEARTS FOR TOMA MI CORAZON XVI ARE AVAILABLE NOW! Every year La Peña gives out wooden hearts to school children, artists, dignitaries, celebrities, and anybody who would like one. They're free to decorate them however they wish and, once they are returned, the hearts are sold in a silent auction. The proceeds go to support La Peña's artistic and educational programming. Deadline: *Sun., Jan. 20. 227 Congress, 477-6007.*



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Litera

READINGS, SIGNINGS, AND PERFORMANCES

ROBERTO DE HARO is a scholar-activist, retired professor, and senior-level university executive. Author of four novels, he talks about his latest novels, *The Mexican Chubasco* and *Jolene's Last Gasp: A Novel of Dreams Denied*. Tue., Nov. 27, 7pm. Austin History Center, 810 Guadalupe, 974-7400. www.cityofaustin.org/library.

LOU DUBOSE presents the last work co-authored by Molly Ivins, *Bill of Wrongs*. Yes, George Bush is the worst in the history of the Republic, bar none. Tue., Nov. 27, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

AUSTIN CITY WIDE UNDER 21 POETRY SLAM! Back for its sixth season. Take a break from all the turkey, shopping, and football to witness the most talented young spoken-word artists in Austin doing their thing with gusto! After filling your belly with food, come to the City Wide and have a big ol' helping of dessert for the mind! Sat., Nov. 24, 3-6pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress, 632-5033. \$5 cover, free for participants and kids under 5. www.btywc.org.

TEXAS NAFAS presents *Angels Knocking at the Tavern Door* (part two) with Robert Bly and Coleman Barks. Highly recommended, even if you saw the live performance. Saturdays on Channel 16, ACTV.

WRITING/BOOK GROUPS

LAW OF ATTRACTION DISCUSSION GROUP discusses the principals in *The Law of Attraction* by Esther and Jerry Hicks, as well as related books. Every Saturday, 9am. Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.

LITERARY MOVIE NIGHT wants you *Running With Scissors*, the movie directed by Ryan Murphy and based on Augusten Burroughs' memoir. Wed., Nov.

28, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

NEW & NOTEWORTHY CLUB revisits the wonders of *If on a Winter's Night* by Italo Calvino. Mon., Nov. 26, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar.

AUSTIN WRITER'S BLOCK members encourage one another to write and exchange ideas, celebrate successes, and work through frustrations. Also writing exercises. Tuesdays, 4:30-6:30pm. La Madeleine, 3418 N. Lamar. www.austinwritersblock.com.

SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS

DR. CRAIG SOMMERS presents a video-enhanced lecture on How to Run a Car/Truck on the Used Oil Outside of the Donut Shop! This presentation is not about how to make biodiesel, but rather how to use straight vegetable oil as fuel. Stop paying high fuel prices and supporting the oil war! [Ed. note: That's right, the other billion or so people who'll never switch, let them support the oil war.] Mon., Nov. 26, 7pm. MonkeyWrench Books, 110 E. North Loop, 407-6925. Free. www.monkeywrenchbooks.org.

★ **AN EVENING WITH RUDE MECHANICALS** The Rude Mechanicals' Kirk Lynn and UT theatre professor Charlotte Canning discuss collaboration between playwrights and directors. A performance of scenes from *The Method Gun*, a work-in-progress inspired by acting teacher Stella Burden, follows. Following the discussion, members of the cast perform various scenes from the work-in-progress. The program ends with a dance number based on the drinking of rum cocos in Tennessee Williams' *'Night of the Iguana'* and these drinks will be served to the audience during a question-and-answer period. Tickets are required; reserve yours via e-mail. Wed., Nov. 28, 8pm. The Off Center, 2211-A Hidalgo, 476-7833. tickets@rudemechs.com.

OPEN MICS

WEIRD WORD is a round robin for poets and musicians. No sign-up sheet, no censors, no features. All poetry styles welcome. Currently BYOB for those so inclined. Hosted by the WarriorPoet. Note new

day. Mondays, 7-10pm. Cafe Caffeine, 909 W. Mary, 447-9473. www.southaustinstudios.com.

GENUINE JOE Make some noise, or just sit and enjoy the enchanting air of North Austin. All acts welcome, but no cover songs. Thursdays, 7:30-10pm. Genuine Joe Coffeehouse, 2001 W. Anderson, 220-1576. www.genuinejoe.com.

HIDEOUT MIC is still an Open Universe open poetry mic event with your newest host: somebody who loves you. Mondays, 7-10pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 476-0473. \$2 (or canned food for Poets Pantry). www.hideouttheatre.com.

LA TAZZA FRESCA Poets and musicians always welcome. Kathleen Romana hosts. Fri., Nov. 23, 7-9pm. La Tazza Fresca, 519 W. 37th, 371-5383. latazzafresca@earthlink.net.

THE POETRY KARAOKE ORCHESTRA backs your poetry on the porch, with hosts Ivanho and Chris the Future. Bring canned foods for the Poets Pantry. Tuesdays, 8-10pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. www.rutamaya.net.

RUTA MAYA POETRY is one of the longest-running open mics in Austin. Hosted by David Bates and Mark Maslow. Donations accepted for Poets Pantry. Tuesdays, 6-9pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress, 707-9637. www.freespeechart.com.

THE AUSTIN POETRY SLAM Mike Henry and a rotating crew of slam ninjas captain the crew that has all the best of stand-up, po-mo theatre, rock & roll, and phone sex rolled into one cosmic-heat blast of an evening. Open sign-up, 12 poets per week. \$100 cash prizes. Featured poets kick it on, and then the tangles get electric. Note new venue! Wednesdays, 8pm. Scoot Inn & Beer Garden, 1308 E. Fourth, 478-6200. www.nps2007.com.

UNPROTECTED POETRY Spoken word from the House of Soul, with free refreshments. Thursdays, 7pm. Victory Grill, 1104 E. 11th, 391-0174. \$5 after 8pm; free for performing poets. poetryatx@yahoo.com.

CALL FOR ENTRIES

POETRY IN THE ARTS The journal *Ardent* seeks poetry with strong emotion. Reading fee: \$3 (for

up to three poems). Line limit: 32. Send to: Dillon McKinsey, Ardent Editor, 1909 Hollow Ridge Dr., Cedar Park, TX 78613. Although, actually, e-mail submission is preferred: rimer777@gmail.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

THE HOLIDAY BOOK DRIVE invites customers to buy books for donation at Barnes & Noble bookstores through Jan. 1. Barnes & Noble will distribute the donated books to children through locally designated nonprofit organizations, schools, libraries, and literacy partners. This year Barnes & Noble Sunset Valley will be collecting books for the Women's Storybook Project and Helping Hand Home. 5601 Brodie, 892-3493.

MORE POETRY! *fit it inside an inside inside an inside – their copper horizons invisible – the weaving women vague dreams of white fires, transparent – thin prayers of moon loss—ungather her sorrow. the small far sound of pianos. she slips into the blue room, clouds like all those days turned away until there is only this one river – its banks like the curves of his closed eyes. Namaste. Vaya con dios.*

POEM OF THE ISSUE

Above the backyard ravine,
violet-ringed twilight
delineates copper-bronze leaves
as shin oaks snag moon moments.
Seconds later, winter-green junipers
frame a halo of rainbow mist —
ancient satellite defined
with Advent expectations.
— Carolyn Luke Reding, from "Diffusion" in her upcoming collection, *Two Rivers Poetry*

TOMMY DEWAR SAYS...

NEVER INVEST IN A GOING CONCERN
UNLESS YOU KNOW
WHICH WAY IT IS GOING



DEWAR'S® OLD FASHIONED: In the bottom of a rock glass, carefully muddle 1/3 part sugar, 2 dashes bitters, 1 orange slice, 1 maraschino cherry and a splash of soda or water. Remove the orange rind. Add 1 part DEWAR'S® WHITE LABEL® and ice. Garnish with 1 orange slice and 1 maraschino cherry. Enjoy the distinguished flavors of this classic cocktail.

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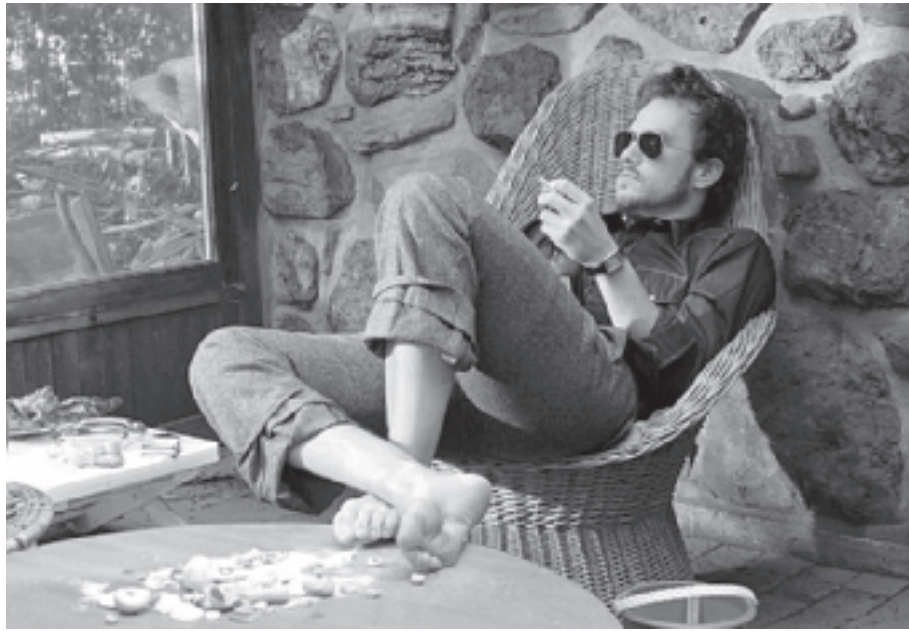
film listings

I'm Not There

D: Todd Haynes; with Christian Bale, Cate Blanchett, Marcus Carl Franklin, Richard Gere, Heath Ledger, Ben Whishaw, Charlotte Gainsbourg, Bruce Greenwood, Michelle Williams, Julianne Moore. (R, 135 min.)

“I don’t belong to anybody,” goes a verse from the titular song, which may very well be the point, or at least one of them, in a film that was “inspired by the many lives of Bob Dylan.” Nobody here’s named Bob, per se, but we get six incarnations that represent cycles in the life of the artist formally known as Robert Zimmerman, from a young strummer’s worship at the altar of folk

to renunciation and his own reluctant ascension to idol status (don’t forget the detours into sex, drugs, and Allen Ginsberg). They go by names that point to Dylan’s mentors (like Ramblin’ Jack, Woody Guthrie, Arthur Rimbaud) and faces that range from a preteen black boy (Franklin) to a highly heralded Aussie lass (Blanchett). Blanchett plays Jude – that’s for Judas, as in traitor to the folk scene, the one who blew a raspberry-flavored fuck-you to the folk community by way of an amplifier. Physically, she’s bears the closest resemblance to Dylan, but as a misunderstood artist (cocaine-)railing and speaking in riddles at an unbeliever British journalist (Greenwood), the role of Jude tips toward the boorish. Blanchett’s great, of course – she’s always great – but the emotional guts of *I’m Not There* belong to Ledger, as a counterculture actor whose big break comes from starring in a biopic of folksinger Jack (Bale), and Gainsbourg, as his French painter wife, Claire. Haynes plays their love affair out to the backdrop of Vietnam, and the moment Claire links the Vietnam armistice to the death knell of her marriage is easily the most transportive thing I’ve seen on celluloid all year. The only interlude that, if not fails, certainly flags, is Gere’s sad-clown Billy the Kid, which comes in far too late in the film and suffers from Gere’s granny glasses and a perpetual mope that reads like someone kicked his dog. (Actually, it ran away on its accord. Good dog.) His arc – about a township named Riddle about to be overrun by the despot Pat Garrett (also played by Greenwood) – is intentionally pocked with anachronisms: Townsfolk



wear Civil War getups and speak in an old-fashioned patois alongside plastic Halloween masks and strings of electric bulbs. It’s the most opaque outing in the film but also perhaps the most visually arresting, as when *My Morning Jacket*’s Jim James performs “Goin’ to Acapulco” as funeral dirge for a child bride. The narrative stops in its track for something bewildering and utterly breathtaking ... and so it goes for Haynes’ piece as a whole: It doesn’t always make sense (and goes on too long by 20 minutes), but, damn, it looks good – and feels good, too, if melancholy is your cup of tea. After the Oscar “legitimacy” of his ode to Douglas Sirk, *Far From Heaven*, Haynes could’ve burrowed deeper underground or sold out entirely: Instead, he’s created a dazzling hybrid. There’s an undeniable thrill to watching something so experimental and yet totally accessible to those of us who speak only layman’s Dylanese, and it’s Haynes’ warmest film yet. The thing is infused with love – not the slavish kind but a true-eyed tribute to the artist who belongs to nobody and everybody at once. (See “*The Intersection of Personal and Political*,” p.58, for an interview with Todd Haynes.)

– Kimberley Jones

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Village, Arbor, Dobie

New Reviews

AUGUST RUSH

D: Kirsten Sheridan; with Freddie Highmore, Keri Russell, Jonathan Rhys Meyers, Terrence Howard, Robin Williams, William Sadler, Leon G. Thomas III, Jamia Simone Nash. (PG, 104 min.)

Not exactly what I’d expected from the director of the woefully underseen *Trainspotting-meets-Teletubbies* macro-piece *Disco Pigs*. Instead, *August Rush* is a rather prosaic, oddly anxious, contemporary take on Dickens’ *Oliver Twist*, with Williams – in nasty-man twee mode, a newish one for him – thrown in for bad measure. Surely there is a circle in hell reserved for Patch Adams and his ilk; if so, Williams’ Fagin-like character here, while not badly played on the whole, should get time off for good behavior, by which I mean bad. When, at a crucial juncture in this very poorly titled film, he hisses at musical prodigy and soulful orphan August Rush (Highmore), “You’re parents aren’t coming for you – they’re probably dead!” I was agast and sud-

denly unsure of who, exactly, I should be rooting for – evil Sith Emperor Williams or twinkle-eyed musician Highmore. Sheridan, the daughter of Irish filmmaker Jim Sheridan (she co-wrote the excellent *In America* with him) has no such confusion in mind, however. *August Rush* is, frankly, *Fame* meets *The Fisher King*. Highmore’s parents are ably essayed by Russell and Rhys Meyers, one a classical cellist destined for greatness with the New York Philharmonic, the other a scruffy Irish ne’er-do-well who fronts a vaguely Poguesy band of rockers (more teeth, less fun). After spending a magical night coupling on a rooftop overlooking Manhattan’s Washington Square Arch, they promptly go their separate ways. Neither one realizes that, via a quick (if narratively convenient) switcheroo on the part of Russell’s overprotective dad, they’ve sown the seed of August Rush. An orphan whose parents are unaware even of his existence? Heaven forfend! Thankfully, guided by the spirit of music – not Michael Crawford in this case, alas – Our Brave Lad makes his way to the Big City where he instantly proves

adroit at both attracting strange men (Williams, natch) and rockin’ like Dokken in Washington Square Park. Once there, he burns like a flame while under the lock and key of Mr. Scary, tithing his collected coinage to the semi-icky man while living in an abandoned theatre filled with other young castaways from society. Will his parents, through a magical, utterly unlikely yet-strangely compelling turn of fate, come running once they hear the longing in their little maestro’s edgily hip, borderline Ani DiFrancoid slap-strumming? Oh ho! Far be it from me to state the obvious. – Marc Savlov

★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

★ ENCHANTED

D: Kevin Lima; with Amy Adams, Patrick Dempsey, James Marsden, Susan Sarandon, Timothy Spall, Rachel Covey, Idina Menzel. (PG, 107 min.)

It’s difficult to describe the mixture of romance, dry satire, and musical comedy that is the new Disney film *Enchanted*. But one thing’s for certain: Adams (*Junebug*) is

its heart and soul. Her ability to play wild-eyed innocence with a biting comic edge never disappoints. And as Giselle, she’s perfectly cast as an amalgam of every fairy-tale maiden. The film begins in an all-too-familiar animated wonderland. Giselle is an innocent forest-dwelling babe who sings with animals and dreams of finding her true love. Enter Prince Edward (Marsden). Singing atop his racing steed, he rescues Giselle from a troll, and the two are ready to live happily ever after. Or not. Edward’s mother, Queen Narissa (Sarandon), is determined to prevent her son from marrying and throws the infatuated young lady into a magical fountain, landing Giselle in the center of Times Square. What’s more, she’s no longer animated. If you can check any need for logic at the door, this is where things get fun. It’s impossible to watch Adams navigate herself through Midtown Manhattan in an enormous hoop skirt and not grin from ear to ear. Operating exclusively through storybook rules, Giselle mistakes little people for the seven dwarves, attempts to enter a billboard with a picture of a palace on it, and insists she’ll be fine as long as she can locate shelter in a nearby meadow or hollow tree. Enter Robert (Dempsey), a hardened divorce attorney and single father. While Robert helps our damsel in distress, she remains convinced that Prince Edward will appear. And he does. Emerging in Times Square with his high boots and puffed shirt, he attacks a city bus and refers to everyone as “peasants.” Meanwhile, Giselle adapts to her environment. When she summons (through song, of course) the local fauna to help her clean, she’s a little taken aback with the appearance of pigeons, cockroaches, and rats. But the ensuing musical sequence is stylish dark comedy as she sweeps with the help of friendly urban pests. Furthermore, there’s a wonderful musical number in Central Park involving a confused Robert and a ridiculously elaborate dance sequence. Marsden (*Hairspray*) does an excellent job as the dim prince, Dempsey suffices as the cynic with a heart of gold, and Sarandon is coolly over-the-top as the vain queen, but the spotlight belongs to Adams alone. Though writer Bill Kelly’s script takes extreme liberties with plot development and never really leaves you guessing about who will get the girl, the jokes rarely miss, and the result is a refreshingly sardonic fairy tale.

– Toddy Burton

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

HITMAN

D: Xavier Gens; with Timothy Olyphant, Dougray Scott, Olga Kurylenko, Ulrich Thomsen, Robert Knepper, Henry Ian Cusick. (R, 100 min.)

To be sure, *Hitman* is a lousy film, but like the video game that inspired it, it’s also great fun, drawing as it does on everything from James Bondian Eurotrash panache to Vin Diesel’s moribund XXX character. Studio backchatter had been buzzing awhile back about credited direc-

Openings

August Rush (PG)

Enchanted (PG)

Hitman (R)

I'm Not There (R)

The Mist (R)

This Christmas (PG-13)

Ratings

★★★★★ As perfect as a movie can be

★★★★ Slightly flawed, but excellent nonetheless

★★★ Has its good points, and its bad points

★★ Mediocre, but with one or two bright spots

★ Poor, without any saving graces

La bomba

tor Gens – helmer of the French gorefest *Frontière(s)* – getting sacked in the interest of a less violent take on the assassination game via longtime editor Nicolas De Toth (*Live Free or Die Hard*). However, who directed what is about as fruitful a line of query as “What the hell?” since the entire movie – including its clichéd slo-mo ballistic ballets and Kurylenko’s generous swallow-your-tongue, ooh-la-la-isms – is ripped off from its myriad genre predecessors (not least of which are *La Femme Nikita* and *The Professional*, both from *Hitman* co-producer Luc Besson). The only thing original about *Hitman* is the notion that Olyphant would make a kickass, morally ambivalent antihero. Predictably, that’s the one thing *Hitman* gets totally wrong. Olyphant looks like a cut-rate Diesel and sounds like he’s battling 1,001 accents (courtesy of 1,001 EU character actors) instead of the KGB, the CIA, and his own mysterious past. Still, *Hitman* is nothing if not a brain-dead pleasure bomb. It is, indeed, one of those rare, so-bad-it’s-good shoot-’em-ups, where nothing seems to make all that much sense, but you likely won’t give a damn, because the film never cripples its forward momentum with such trivialities as narrative logic or motive. All anyone needs to know about *Hitman* is that pseudo-director Gens had a hand in the equally sui generis laff-riot *Double Team* a decade ago and, that Olyphant shoots a lot of people, some of them possibly Russian. Why does this enigmatic killing machine have a UPC scanner code tattooed on the back of his shorn noggin? Who does Thompson think he’s playing – Gary Oldman in *True Romance*? When will Kurylenko take her clothes off? All these puzzlers and more will be revealed – or, mostly, not – in what I can honestly say is “the best film I’ve seen in the last three hours.” – *Marc Savlov*

★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

THE MIST
D: Frank Darabont; with Thomas Jane, Marcia Gay Harden, Andre Braugher, Laurie Holden, Toby Jones, William Sadler, Frances Sternhagen, Jeffrey DeMunn, Alexa Davalos, Nathan Gamble.
(R, 127 min.)

My mother, who was a young girl during World War II, is still haunted by something her father said to her during those years. In a boomerang attempt to silence any wor-

ries she might have, her father/my grandfather promised that if the Nazis ever set foot on U.S. shores, he would shoot her himself before the Nazis ever had a chance to capture her. Some comfort, but the lesson she learned lasted a lifetime: Fear the monsters, but also beware the dark impulses the monsters provoke. Horror resides both without and within. That’s the message of Darabont’s *The Mist*. Yes, it’s a horror film with a message. *The Mist* has extended passages that pause to preach, to demonstrate the dark impulses of irrationality, magical thinking, and mob mentality. Sadly, these interludes only take away from the magnificent moments in which the stunningly crafted beasts in the mist (credit visual-effects supervisor Everett Burrell and creature design and make-up-effects artist Greg Nicotero) come out to prey. Darabont has made an old-fashioned scary movie that uses a B-name movie cast (minus Harden) as set-piece fodder: victims and antagonists of the film’s menacing creepy-crawlies. And, man alive! *The Mist*’s grossly tentacled who-knows-whats and giant flying insect thingees are as shuddersome as they come. The story pits a collection of the inhabitants of a small Maine town in the local Food House supermarket, where at least half the film’s action takes place. They are there stocking up on supplies after an overnight storm knocked out windows and phone service and blew in an ominous mist. Gradually, after a fatal course of trial and error, the gathered collective concludes that “there’s something in the mist.” Nobody bothers to quiz the three servicemen in their midst from the nearby military base, whose mission was always the subject of local speculation. Among the townspeople are movie-poster artist and family man David Drayton (Jane) and his young son, Billy (Gamble) check-out manager Ollie (Jones, who played Truman Capote in the Capote film that didn’t star Philip Seymour Hoffman); a young new schoolteacher (Holden); an older schoolmarm (Sternhagen); libidinous Sally (Davalos) – guess what happens to her – and crazy church lady Mrs. Carmody (Harden), whose sermons about hellfire and damnation grow in merit as the crowd grows more frightened by the day. Director Darabont, who also scripted this film from a Stephen King novella (much like *The Shawshank Redemption* and *The Green Mile*), maintains King’s focus on the monster that is the doomsday evangelical, who holds our sins to blame for the divine’s retribu-

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Thurs 11/22–Sun: (1:30, 4:30) 7:20, 10:00

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3rd Coast Activists: Bamako: Wed. 7:00pm
Terror Thursday: Blood Freak: Thu. (11/22), 12mid
The Christmas Pops! Sing-Along: Sat. 7:00pm
Into the Wild: Fri-Sat, 12:45pm; Mon, 3:45pm; Tue, 3:30pm; Wed, 3:45pm
Love of the Rings trilogy Hobbit Feast: Sun, 10:30am
Histophy Arts: My Name is Alibi Tyler: Wed, 9:45pm
Nineties Just Wonders Sing-Along: Sat. 10:00pm; Thu. (11/29), 9:45pm
No Country for Old Men: Fri, 11:00am, 1:35, 4:15, 4:20, 7:00, 7:05, 9:40, 11:59pm; Sat, 11:00am, 1:35, 4:15, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40, 11:59pm; Sun, 11:00am, 1:35, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40pm; Mon-Wed, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40; Thu. (11/29), 4:20, 7:00, 9:40, 11:59
Weird Wednesday: Office Girls: Wed, 12mid
AFS: The Regulars: Tues. 7:00pm
Master Panicle: Road House: Fri, 9:45, 11:59
Terror Thursday: Sorority House Massacre: Thu. (11/29), 12mid
Music Monday: Sound of Rio: Mon, 10:00pm
Teen Witch Sing-Along: Wed, 7:30pm
Weird Wednesday: War of the Robots: Wed, 12mid

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE LAKE CREEK 13729 Research, 219-8135.
American Gangster: Wed. 11:45am, 12:00, 3:10, 3:15, 7:00, 7:05, 10:30am, 10:35pm; Thu. (11/22), 11:45am, 12:00, 3:10, 3:15, 7:00, 7:05, 10:30pm; Fri-Thu. (11/29), 11:45am, 3:10, 7:00, 10:30pm
***August Rush:** Fri-Thu. (11/29), 12:05, 3:05, 7:10, 10:25
***Beowulf:** Wed-Thu. (11/22), 12:15, 12:20, 3:30, 3:35, 7:25, 7:30, 10:15, 10:20; Fri-Thu. (11/29), 12:55, 3:30, 7:25, 10:15
Dan in Real Life: Wed-Thu. (11/22), 12:10, 3:30, 7:15, 10:00; Fri-Thu. (11/29), 12:10, 3:30, 7:05, 10:00
The Darjeeling Limited: Wed-Thu. (11/22), 3:25, 10:05
Gone Baby Gone: Wed-Thu. (11/22), 12:35, 7:10
TV: Heroes: Mon, 8:00pm
***Hitman:** Fri-Thu. (11/29), 12:40, 3:35, 7:30, 10:35
***Lions for Lambs:** 12:45, 3:40, 7:35, 10:10
Tromatic Thursday: Luther the Greek: Thu. (11/22), 10:00pm
No Country for Old Men: Fri-Thu. (11/29), 12:30, 3:15, 7:15, 10:05
RoboCop: Fri-Sat, 12mid
Showgirls 2.0: Thu. (11/29), 7:30pm
Unforgiven Feast: Wed, 7:30pm

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE SOUTH 1120 S. Lamar, 476-1320.
American Gangster: Wed-Thu. (11/22), 3:15, 7:05, 10:45; Fri-Sun, 11:45am, 3:15, 7:05, 10:45pm; Mon, 3:15, 7:05, 10:45; Tue, 11:45am, 3:15, 7:05, 10:45pm; Wed-Thu. (11/29), 3:15, 7:05, 10:45
Bee Movie: Wed-Thu. (11/22), 4:00, 6:20, 8:35; Fri, 11:00am, 1:35, 4:00, 6:45, 9:00pm; Sat, 1:35, 4:00, 6:45, 9:00; Sun, 11:00am, 1:35, 4:00, 6:45, 9:00pm; Mon, 4:00, 6:45, 9:00; Tue, 11:00am, 1:35, 4:00, 6:45, 9:00pm; Wed-Thu. (11/29), 4:00, 6:45, 9:00
***Beowulf:** Wed-Thu. (11/22), 4:40, 7:35, 10:25; Fri-Sun, 11:05am, 1:55, 4:40, 7:35, 10:25pm; Mon, 4:40, 7:35, 10:25; Tue, 11:05am, 1:55, 4:40, 7:35, 10:25pm; Wed-Thu. (11/29), 4:40, 7:35, 10:25
Kids Club: The Cat From Outer Space: Sat, 12:00pm
The District: Wed-Thu. (11/22), 10:45pm
Enchanted: Wed, 4:10, 7:00, 7:30, 9:45; Thu. (11/22), 4:10, 7:00, 9:45; Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 1:30, 4:10, 7:00, 9:45pm; Mon, 4:10, 7:00, 9:45; Tue, 11:00am, 1:30, 4:10, 7:00, 9:45pm; Wed, 4:10, 7:00, 9:45; Thu. (11/29), 4:10, 7:00
Lars and the Real Girl: Wed-Thu. (11/22), 4:30, 7:25, 10:10; Fri-Sun, 11:15am, 1:50, 4:30, 7:25, 10:10pm; Mon, 4:30, 7:25, 10:10; Tue, 11:15am, 1:50, 4:30, 7:25, 10:10pm; Wed, 4:30, 7:25, 10:10; Thu. (11/29), 10:10pm
Punk's Not Dead: Fri-Sat, 12mid
Scion: Paris Is Burning: Wed, 9:30pm
Southland Tales: Wed-Thu. (11/22), 3:40, 7:30, 10:40; Fri-Sun, 12:10, 3:40, 7:30, 10:40; Mon-Wed, 3:40, 7:30, 10:40; Thu. (11/29), 10:40pm

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TV: Battleship Galactica: "Razor": Sat, 12mid
Fred Claus: Wed, 12:40, 3:45, 7:05, 9:55; Thu. (11/22), 3:45, 7:05, 9:55; Fri, 6:45, 9:45; Sat, Sun, 12:35, 3:40, 6:45, 9:45; Mon, 3:40, 9:45; Tue, 12:35, 3:40, 6:45, 9:45; Wed-Thu. (11/29), 3:40, 6:45, 9:45
No Party: Heroes: Mon, 7:15pm
***I'm Not There:** Wed, 12:20, 3:35, 7:15, 10:25; Thu. (11/22), 3:35, 7:15, 10:25; Fri-Sun, 12:30, 3:55, 7:20, 10:20; Mon, 3:55, 7:20, 10:20; Tue, 12:30, 3:55, 7:20, 10:20; Wed-Thu. (11/29), 3:55, 7:20, 10:20
TV Party: The Office: Thu. (11/22), 7:15pm; Thu. (11/29), 7:15pm
The Rocky Horror Picture Show: Sat, 12mid
The Mist: Wed, 12:35, 3:55, 7:20, 10:20; Thu. (11/22), 3:55, 7:20, 10:20; Fri-Sun, 12:15, 3:55, 7:25, 10:25; Mon, 3:55, 7:25, 10:25; Tue, 12:15, 3:55, 7:25, 10:25; Wed-Thu. (11/29), 3:55, 7:25, 10:25

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Into the Wild: Fri-Thu. (11/29), 12:50, 4:15, 7:40
Lars and the Real Girl: Fri-Thu. (11/29), 12:15, 2:50, 5:40, 7:30, 10:20
No Country for Old Men: Fri-Thu. (11/29), 12:10, 1:00, 2:40, 3:45, 5:20, 6:45, 8:00, 9:40
Southland Tales: Fri-Thu. (11/29), 12:40, 4:00, 7:50

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American Gangster: Fri-Sat, 10:15am, 12:40, 4:40, 8:00, 11:10pm; Sun, 3:40, 7:00, 10:10; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 3:40, 7:00, 10:15
***August Rush:** Fri-Sun, 10:10am, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:05, 10:40pm; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 2:30, 5:05, 7:35, 10:10
Bee Movie: Wed, 12:10am, 12:40, 2:55, 5:10, 7:25, 9:40pm; Sun, 12:40, 2:55, 5:10, 7:25, 9:40; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 2:55, 5:10, 7:25, 9:35
Fri-Sat: 10:05am, 12:30, 3:05, 5:40, 8:20, 11pm; Sun, 10:05am, 12:30, 3:05, 5:40, 8:20, 11:55pm; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 3:00, 5:45, 8:25, 10:55
Dan in Real Life: Fri-Sat, 10:50am, 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30pm; Sun, 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 1:15, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30
***Enchanted:** Fri-Sun, 10:00am, 12:15, 2:45, 5:20, 7:55, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15
Fred Claus: Fri-Sat, 11:30am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10pm; Sun, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 3:00, 5:40, 8:15, 10:50
***Hitman:** Fri-Sun, 10:50am, 1:15, 3:40, 6:05, 8:25, 10:50pm; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 1:15, 3:35, 5:55, 8:20, 10:45
Love in the Time of Cholera: Fri-Sat, 10:35am, 1:35, 4:35, 7:35, 10:35pm; Sun, 1:35, 4:35, 7:35, 10:35; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:30
Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium (Closed-Captioned): Fri-Sun, 10:40am, 12:55, 3:10, 5:35, 7:45, 10:00; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 1:00, 3:05, 5:20, 7:30, 9:45
No Country for Old Men: Fri-Sat, 10:10am, 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 1:05, 3:20, 5:35, 8:00, 10:25
***The Mist:** Fri-Sat, 12:00, 2:55, 5:45, 8:10; Tue, Sun, 12:00, 2:55, 5:45, 8:20, 10:55; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 10:40
***This Christmas:** Fri-Sun, 10:00am, 12:25, 3:00, 5:40, 8:15, 10:45pm; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 2:35, 5:10, 7:55, 10:35

CINEMARK CEDAR PARK 1335 E. Whitesboro, 800/FANDANGO.
American Gangster: Wed. 11:50am, 3:15, 7:05, 10:25pm; Thu. (11/22), 3:15, 7:05, 10:25; Fri-Sun, 11:50am, 3:15, 7:05, 10:25pm; Thu. (11/29), 3:15, 7:05, 10:25
***August Rush:** Wed, 11:40am, 2:20, 5:10, 7:50, 10:35pm; Thu. (11/22), 2:20, 5:10, 7:50, 10:35; Fri-Sun, 11:40am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:50, 10:35pm; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 2:20, 5:00, 7:50, 10:35
Bee Movie: Wed, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:10, 10:30; Thu. (11/22), 3:00, 5:30, 8:10, 10:30; Fri-Sun, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:10, 10:30; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 3:00, 5:30, 8:10, 10:30
***Beowulf:** Wed-Thu. (11/22), 2:00, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:45, 10:45; Fri-Sun, 2:00, 4:00, 4:45, 6:55, 8:00, 9:45, 10:45; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 2:00, 4:00, 4:45, 6:55, 8:00, 9:45
Dan in Real Life: Fri-Thu. (11/29), 12:10, 10:20
***Enchanted:** Wed, 12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 8:05, 10:40; Thu. (11/22), 2:45, 5:20, 8:05, 10:40; Fri-Sun, 12:15, 1:00, 2:45, 5:20, 7:00, 8:05, 9:35, 10:40; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 2:45, 5:20, 7:00, 8:05, 9:35
Fred Claus: Wed, 12:40, 2:20, 7:15, 10:00; Thu. (11/22), 4:20, 7:15, 10:00; Fri-Sun, 1:20, 4:15, 7:30, 10:00; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 4:15, 7:30, 10:00
***Hitman:** Wed, 11:45am, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40pm; Thu. (11/22), 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40; Fri-Sun, 11:45am, 2:10, 4:30, 7:15, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 2:10, 4:30, 7:15, 9:40
***Love in the Time of Cholera:** Wed, 12:45, 4:10, 7:20, 10:20; Thu. (11/22), 4:10, 7:20, 10:20; Fri-Sun, 12:45, 4:10, 7:20, 10:20; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 4:10, 7:20, 10:20
***Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium:** Wed, 12:00, 2:30, 5:15, 7:40, 10:10; Thu. (11/22), 2:30, 5:15, 7:40, 10:10; Fri-Sun, 12:00, 2:30, 5:15, 7:40, 10:10; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 2:30, 5:15, 7:40, 10:10
***The Mist:** Wed, 1:05, 4:05, 7:05, 10:05; Thu. (11/22), 4:05, 7:05, 10:05; Fri-Sun, 1:10, 4:05, 7:10, 10:05; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 4:05, 7:10, 10:05

CINEMARK HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA 12800 Hwy. 71, 800/FANDANGO.
American Gangster: Wed, 12:40, 4:15, 6:05, 8:00, 9:35; Thu. (11/22), 4:15, 6:05, 8:00, 9:35; Fri-Sun, 12:40, 4:15, 6:05, 8:00, 9:35; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 4:15, 6:05, 8:00, 9:35
***August Rush:** Wed, 12:35, 3:40, 6:45, 9:50; Thu. (11/22), 3:40, 6:45, 9:50; Fri-Sun, 12:35, 3:40, 6:45, 9:50; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 3:40, 6:45, 9:50
Bee Movie: Wed, 11:25am, 12:10, 1:55, 2:40, 5:10, 7:00, 7:45, 10:10pm; Thu. (11/22), 4:20, 5:15, 7:00, 7:45, 10:10; Fri-Sun, 11:25am, 12:10, 1:55, 2:40, 5:10, 7:00, 7:45, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 4:20, 5:10, 7:00, 7:45, 10:10
***Beowulf:** Wed, 11:20am, 12:30, 2:10, 3:20, 5:00, 6:30, 7:50, 9:45, 10:30pm; Thu. (11/22), 3:20, 5:00, 6:30, 7:50, 9:45, 10:30; Fri-Sun, 11:20am, 12:30, 2:10, 3:20, 5:00, 6:30, 7:50, 9:45, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 2:10, 3:20, 5:00, 6:30, 7:50, 9:45, 10:30
Dan in Real Life: Wed, 2:25, 4:55, 7:35, 10:25; Thu. (11/22), 4:55, 7:35, 10:25
Bee Movie: Wed, 11:25am, 12:10, 1:55, 2:40, 5:10, 7:00, 7:45, 10:10pm; Thu. (11/22), 4:20, 5:15, 7:00, 7:45, 10:10; Fri-Sun, 11:25am, 12:10, 1:55, 2:40, 5:10, 7:00, 7:45, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 4:20, 5:15, 7:00, 7:45, 10:10
***Enchanted:** Wed, 11:55am, 12:50, 2:25, 3:45, 5:10, 6:35, 7:55, 9:25, 10:30pm; Thu. (11/22), 3:45, 5:10, 6:35, 7:55, 9:25, 10:30; Fri-Sun, 11:55am, 12:50, 2:25, 3:45, 5:10, 6:35, 7:55, 9:25, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 2:25, 3:45, 5:10, 6:35, 7:55, 9:25, 10:30
Fred Claus: Wed, 11:45am, 12:55, 2:55, 4:10, 7:20, 10:15pm; Thu. (11/22), 4:10, 7:20, 10:15; Fri-Sun, 11:45am, 12:55, 2:55, 4:10, 7:20, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 2:55, 4:10, 7:20, 10:15
***Hitman:** Wed, 11:55am, 2:35, 5:05, 7:40, 10:20pm; Thu. (11/22), 5:05, 7:40, 10:20; Fri-Sun, 11:55am, 2:35, 5:05, 7:40, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 2:35, 5:05, 7:40, 10:20
Lions for Lambs: 9:30pm
***Love in the Time of Cholera:** Wed, 11:20am; Fri-Sun, 11:20am; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 1:50pm
***Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium:** Wed, 11:30am, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:05pm; Thu. (11/22), 4:50, 7:25, 10:05; Fri-Sun, 11:30am, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:05pm; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:05
***The Mist:** Wed, 12:50, 3:55, 6:55, 10:00; Thu. (11/22), 3:50, 6:55, 10:00; Fri-Sun, 12:50, 3:50, 6:55, 10:00; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 3:50, 6:55, 10:00

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***The Bourne Ultimatum:** Wed, 1:10, 3:55, 7:05, 9:50; Thu. (11/22), 3:55, 7:05, 9:50; Fri-Tue, 1:10, 3:55, 7:05, 9:45
***The Brave One:** Wed-Thu. (11/22), 6:45, 9:30
***Dragon Wars: D-War:** Fri-Tue, 1:20, 4:05, 7:10, 10:05
***Good Luck Chuck:** Fri-Tue, 1:05, 3:35, 7:00, 9:25
Hairspray: Wed, 1:00, 3:45; Thu. (11/22), 3:45pm
***Halloween:** Wed, 1:20, 4:00, 7:10, 9:55; Thu. (11/22), 4:00, 7:10, 9:55; Fri-Tue, 9:40pm
***The Heartbreak Kid:** Fri-Tue, 1:00, 3:45, 6:45, 9:30
***Mr. Bean's Holiday:** Fri-Tue, 1:25, 4:00, 7:15, 9:35
Mr. Woodcock: Wed-Thu. (11/22), 7:15, 9:25; Fri-Tue, 4:20, 10:00
Ratatouille: Wed, 1:30, 4:15, 6:55, 9:40; Thu. (11/22), 4:15, 6:55; Fri-Tue, 1:30, 4:15, 6:55
***The Seeker: The Dark Is Rising:** Wed, 1:25, 4:05; Thu. (11/22), 4:05pm
***Superbad:** Wed, 1:15, 4:20, 7:20, 10:00; Thu. (11/22), 4:20, 7:20, 10:00; Fri-Tue, 1:15, 4:20
***3:10 to Yuma:** Wed, 1:05, 3:50, 7:00, 9:45; Thu. (11/22), 3:50, 7:00, 9:45; Fri-Tue, 9:05pm
Underdog: Wed, 1:35, 3:40, 6:50, 9:05; Thu. (11/22), 3:40, 6:50; Fri-Tue, 1:35, 3:40, 6:50

CINEMARK ROUND ROCK 4401 N. I-35, 800/FANDANGO.
American Gangster: Wed, 11:55am, 2:40, 6:20, 8:00, 9:45pm; Thu. (11/22), 2:40, 6:20, 8:00, 9:45; Fri-Sun, 11:55am, 2:40, 6:20, 8:00, 9:45pm; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 2:40, 6:20, 8:00, 9:45
***August Rush:** Wed, 10:30am, 1:20, 4:10, 7:05, 9:50pm; Thu. (11/22), 1:20, 4:10, 7:05, 9:50; Fri-Sun, 10:30am, 1:20, 4:10, 7:05, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 1:20, 4:10, 7:05, 9:50
Bee Movie: Wed, 10:10am, 11:45, 12:30, 2:20, 3:30, 5:05, 6:40, 9:10pm; Thu. (11/22), 12:30, 2:20, 3:30, 5:05, 6:40, 9:10pm; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 2:20, 3:30, 5:05, 6:40, 9:10
***Beowulf:** Wed, 10:05am, 10:50, 12:45, 1:40, 3:25, 6:30, 7:20, 9:15, 10:05pm; Thu. (11/22), 12:45, 1:40, 3:40, 4:25, 6:30, 7:20, 9:15, 10:05pm; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 12:45, 1:40, 3:40, 4:25, 6:30, 7:20, 9:15, 10:05pm; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 12:45, 1:40, 3:40, 4:25, 6:30, 7:20, 9:15, 10:05
Dan in Real Life: Wed, 1:30, 6:50, 9:20; Thu. (11/22), 3:50, 6:50, 9:20; Fri-Sun, 1:30, 6:50, 9:20; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 3:50, 6:50, 9:20
***Enchanted:** Wed, 10:00am, 11:00, 1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 4:50, 7:00, 7:45, 9:35, 10:20pm; Thu. (11/22), 1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 4:50, 7:00, 7:45, 9:35, 10:20; Fri-Sun, 10:00am, 11:00, 1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 4:50, 7:00, 7:45, 9:35, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 4:50, 7:00, 7:45, 9:35, 10:20
Fred Claus: Wed, 11:00am, 2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 10:35pm; Thu. (11/22), 2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 10:35pm; Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 10:35pm; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 10:35
The Game Plan: Wed, 10:25am; Thu. (11/22), 1:10pm; Fri-Sun, 10:25am; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 1:10pm
***Hitman:** Wed, 11:30am, 2:30, 5:10, 8:05, 10:25pm; Thu. (11/22), 2:30, 5:10, 8:05, 10:25; Fri-Sun, 11:30am, 2:30, 5:10, 8:05, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 2:30, 5:10, 8:05, 10:25
***Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium:** Wed, 10:40am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:30, 10:00pm; Thu. (11/22), 1:45, 4:30, 7:30, 10:00; Fri-Sun, 10:40am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:30, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 1:45, 4:30, 7:30, 10:00
***The Mist:** Wed, 10:15am, 1:15, 4:20, 7:15, 10:15pm; Thu. (11/22), 1:15, 4:20, 7:15, 10:15; Fri-Sun, 10:15am, 1:15, 4:20, 7:15, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 1:15, 4:20, 7:15, 10:15
***This Christmas:** Wed, 10:45am, 1:30, 4:40, 7:40, 10:30pm; Thu. (11/22), 1:30, 4:40, 7:40, 10:30; Fri-Sun, 10:45am, 1:30, 4:40, 7:40, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 1:30, 4:40, 7:40, 10:30

CINEMARK SOUTHPARK MEADOWS 9900 S. I-35, 800/FANDANGO.
American Gangster: Wed, 11:55am, 3:15, 6:45, 9:35, 10:15pm; Thu. (11/22), 3:15, 6:45, 9:35, 10:15; Fri-Sun, 11:55am, 3:15, 6:45, 9:35, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 3:15, 6:45, 9:35, 10:15
***August Rush:** Wed, 11:00am, 1:45, 4:35, 7:20, 10:05pm; Thu. (11/22), 4:35, 7:20, 10:05; Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 1:45, 4:35, 7:20, 10:05pm; Mon-Thu. (11/29), 1:45, 4:35, 7:20, 10:05
Bee Movie: Wed, 10:20am, 11:30, 12:55, 1:55, 3:40, 4:45, 6:50, 7:10, 9:15, 10:55pm; Thu. (11/22), 3:40, 4:45, 6:50, 7:10, 9:15, 10:05pm; Fri-Sun, 10:20am, 1

First Runs

*Full-length reviews available online at austinchronicle.com. Dates at end of reviews indicate original publication date.

ACROSS THE UNIVERSE

D: Julie Taymor; with Evan Rachel Wood, Jim Sturgess, Joe Anderson, Dana Fuchs, Martin Luther McCoy, T.V. Carpio. (PG-13, 133 min.)

If you aren't fed up with the literalism of Taymor's tribute to the music of the Beatles and the zeitgeist of the Sixties by the time a character named Prudence barges into a scene through a bathroom window, then ... your threshold for this kind of thing is a lot higher than mine. Taymor is a grand visualist of the stage and screen, but a born storyteller she is not. Here she drapes a few dozen well-known Beatles tunes onto a handful of characters in an attempt to relate something of the cultural crucible in which these songs evolved, despite the fact that the tunes follow no chronological progression. The film occasionally escapes its deadly literalism in humorous sequences featuring Eddie Izzard, Bono, and Joe Cocker. Despite ardent defenders, this film will do nothing to infuse life into the current minirevival of movie musicals and is as softheaded as the wishful refrain "All You Need Is Love." (09/28/2007) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★ Barton Creek Square, Dobie

AMERICAN GANGSTER

D: Ridley Scott; with Denzel Washington, Russell Crowe, Josh Brolin, Ruby Dee, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Cuba Gooding Jr., Ted Levine, Armand Assante, John Hawkes, Roger Guenveur Smith, Clarence Williams III, RZA, Carla Gugino, Joe Morton, Common. (R, 157 min.)

Based on Mark Jacobson's *New York* magazine article, *American Gangster* does a crackerjack job at nailing the look and feel of New York City's bad old days, when Mayors Lindsay and Beame (mis)ruled over the Manhattan canyons and Bronx tenements aided and abetted by a police department riddled with more internal corruption and outer rot than a smack-head's corpse. At the height of the Vietnam War, it was Frank Lucas (a sizzling, ferocious Washington) who figured out a whole new angle on the heroin trade and built an empire. Only when a sudden fit of pimpy ostentation hit did he come to the attention of Jersey cop Richie Roberts (Crowe). Roberts is uniformly loathed and scorned by the NYPD's dirty cops (led by a great Brolin), who view him as a dupe for not going with the bribery flow. Crowe has rarely been better, and the same goes for director Scott. (11/02/2007) – Marc Savlov

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

BEE MOVIE

D: Steve Hickner, Simon J. Smith; with the voices of Jerry Seinfeld, Renée Zellweger, Matthew Broderick, Patrick Warburton, John Goodman, Chris Rock, Kathy Bates, Barry Levinson, Oprah Winfrey, Rip Torn, Larry King. (PG, 90 min.)

Bee Movie is an agreeable though tame animated picture. Seinfeld plays Barry B. Benson, a bee who, having just graduated from college (with "perfect grades – all Bs"), must choose a career. Visually, *Bee Movie* never fully capitalizes on the reality-bending possibilities of the animated form. The story zips along at a fast clip so that the film's nifty and not-so-nifty moments are swept along in its current, including some pertinent though gentle messages about the ecological balance of the universe. *Bee Movie* works best when it sticks to the insect world; when Barry leaves the hive with the Pollen Jocks and breaks the cardinal rule of freedom by speaking to humans, the film becomes more earthbound and prosaic. No nectar of the gods this, but we can still be thankful that *Bee Movie* is a sweet morsel that's devoid of any jokes about bee farts and poop. (11/02/2007) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

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FRI, NOV 23	NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN •	1100	135	415	420	700
	NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN •		705	940		
	INTO THE WILD				MIDNIGHT	
	MASTER PANCAKE: ROADHOUSE			945	MIDNIGHT	
SAT, NOV 24	NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN •		1100	135	415	420
	NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN •		700	940		
	INTO THE WILD				MIDNIGHT	
	THE CHRISTMAS POPS SINGALONG					700
	90s ONE-HIT WONDERS SINGALONG					1000
SUN, NOV 25	NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN •	1100	135	420	700	940
	LORD OF THE RINGS FEAST				1030a	
MON, NOV 26	NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN •		420	700	940	
	INTO THE WILD					345
	MY NAME IS ALBERT AYLER					730
	S2 MUSIC MONDAY: SOUND OF RIO					1000
TUES, NOV 27	NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN •		420	700	940	
	INTO THE WILD					330
	AFS ESSENTIAL: THE REGULAR LOVERS					615
	AUSTIN AIR SEX CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND 2					1000
WEDS, NOV 28	NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN •		420	700	940	
	INTO THE WILD					345
	TEEN WITCH SINGALONG					730
	FREE WEIRD WEDNESDAY: OFFICE GIRLS					MIDNIGHT
THU, NOV 29	NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN •	420	700	940	MIDNIGHT	
	TERROR TH: SORORITY HOUSE MASSACRE					MIDNIGHT
	ARMY OF DARKNESS QUOTEALONG					700
	90s ONE-HIT WONDERS SINGALONG					945

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BEOWULF •		1105*	155*	440	735	1025	
BEE MOVIE		1110*	135*	400	645	900	
LARS & THE REAL GIRL		1115*	150*	430*	725*	1010	
AMERICAN GANGSTER		1145*		315	705	1045	
SOUTHLAND TALES		1210*		340*	730*	1040	
PUNKS NOT DEAD			1130		(Fri/Sat)		
KIDS: CAT from OUTERSPACE			700		(Sat)		
SCION presents PARIS IS BURNING			730		(Tues)		

VILLAGE - ANDERSON LANE WEST OF BURNET							
FRED CLAU	1235*	340*	6:45*	945			
AMERICAN GANGSTER	1145*	315	710	1040			
I'M NOT THERE	1230*	355	720	1020			
THE MIST	1215*	335	655	955			
UT FOOTBALL	230		(Sat)				
ROCKY HORROR	MIDNIGHT		(Sat)				
TV at the ALAMO: HEROES	715		(Mon)				
TV at the ALAMO: BATTLESTAR	MIDNIGHT		(Sat)				

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Fred Claus
Mr. Magoo
Bee Movie
Enchanted
Hitman

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NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (12:30 3:15) 7:15 10:05
BEOWULF (12:15 3:00) 7:35 10:15
HITMAN (12:40 3:35) 7:30 10:35
AMERICAN GANGSTER (11:45 3:10) 7:00 10:30
LIONS & LAMBS (12:45 3:40) 7:35 10:15
AUGUST RUSH (12:05 3:05) 7:30 10:25
11 MATINEE ALL TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE PLEASE SEE WEBSITE OR 219-8125 800 CHANSELEIGH DRIVE
DAN IN REAL LIFE (12:10 3:00) 7:35 10:00

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Showgirls 2.0

Showgirls 2.0 (1995) *D: Paul Verhoeven; with Elizabeth Berkley, Kyle MacLachlan, Gina Gershon. (NC-17, 97 min.)* The infamous movie will screen along with a live commentary from David Schmader, a Seattle writer and columnist for *The Stranger*, who is billed as the world's foremost authority on the film. He will argue for its being the best "worst movie ever made." For more info, see www.drafthouse.com. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Thu. (11/29), 7:30pm; \$12.



BEFORE THE DEVIL KNOWS YOU'RE DEAD

D: Sidney Lumet; with Philip Seymour Hoffman, Ethan Hawke, Albert Finney, Marisa Tomei, Rosemary Harris, Michael Shannon, Amy Ryan. (R, 116 min.)
Lumet is 83 years old now, but the storyline in *Before the Devil Knows You're Dead* carries both the rhythms of youthful vanity – and its attendant fearlessness – and the dead-on, relentless morality of an Old Testament Hollywood hand. This is one of those films where the less you know going in, the better time you'll likely have, but the bare bones go like this: Two brothers, Hank (Hawke) and Andy (Hoffman) Hanson, plot the robbery of a jewelry store to alleviate their individual financial woes. This misguided robbery goes horrifically wrong and sets off a chain reaction of cascading disasters for not only the brothers Hanson but, ultimately, for the entire Hanson family. The situation doesn't just bomb; it goes all-out nuclear. Meanwhile the performances of the two leads, as well as Finney, Tomei, and the others, are downright thrilling. (11/09/2007) – Marc Savlov
★★★★ Arbor, Dobie

BELLA

D: Alejandro G. Monteverde; with Eduardo Verástegui, Tammy Blanchard, Manny Perez, Angélica Aragón, Jaime Tirelli, Ali Landry, Ramon Rodriguez. (PG-13, 91 min.)
Bella is, indeed, a beautiful film. The bustling, cab-crowded thoroughfares of New York City have rarely looked as inviting and the coastline as momentarily beachy as they do in this film. Monteverde's film was shot by cinematographer Andrew Cadelago (both men are University of Texas graduates) with an unusual attention to detail for what is essentially a character study of two people. This only adds to the nuance and sense of grace inherent in Verástegui's and Blanchard's performances, both of which are models of emotional restraint and resonance in what could have been a soppy, overwrought melodrama. This is a film that embraces and celebrates the possibility for change and growth, both without and within, both personal and spiritual. Monteverde's unobtrusive direction makes *Bella* into something far more interesting and affecting than the mediocre telenovela it could have been. The film won the People's Choice Award at the Toronto Film Festival in 2006. (10/26/2007) – Marc Savlov
★★★ Arbor, Metropolitan

BEOWULF

D: Robert Zemeckis; with Ray Winstone, Anthony Hopkins, Robin Wright Penn, Brendan Gleeson, Crispin Glover, Angelina Jolie, John Malkovich. (PG-13, 115 min.)
The irony inherent in using 21st century motion-control technology to tell a tale approximately 1,400 years old is just one of many bizarrely entertaining aspects of *Beowulf*. High school English teachers may breathe a collective sigh of relief: Although this version of *Beowulf* (the script, ricocheting between thrilling, heroic, and hilarious, is by Neil Gaiman and Roger Avary) does take some liberties, it's as faithful to the extant version as it needs to be. There's no doubt *Beowulf* is cracker-jack popcorn entertainment. The 3-D effects are jaw-droppingly immersive and realistic, but thanks to the witty, zippy script, they never detract from the story. The sticking point, for many people, will be Zemeckis' reliance on the still-imperfect technique of motion-control animation, which still exhibits a certain *Shrek*iness when it comes to such complex, expressive textures as the human face. Then again, the technique allows one hell of a kickass dragon. (11/16/2007) – Marc Savlov
★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM

D: Paul Greengrass; with Matt Damon, Julia Stiles, David Strathairn, Scott Glenn, Paddy Considine, Edgar Ramirez, Albert Finney, Joan Allen. (PG-13, 111 min.)
Conventional wisdom states that by the third movie in any series, lead characters have long since given up any psychological relevance, and plots have become mere retreads. Which makes *The Bourne Ultimatum* – the third in the Robert Ludlum-penned series about Jason Bourne (Damon), the rogue CIA spook with impossibly broad shoulders and the memory of a goldfish – such an achievement. Director Greengrass bests his own excellent *The Bourne Supremacy*, creating a true action thriller that's far closer to art than it probably has any right to be. Episode three finds Bourne still struggling to reconstruct his identity while bringing down elaborate conspiracies percolating among the higher-ups in the American intelligence community. He doesn't know his real name; he can't remember why he is where he is or why he does what he does. And – unkindest cut of all! – he can't remember that he used to schtup Julia Stiles. (08/03/2007) – Josh Rosenblatt
★★★★ Movies 8

CONTROL

D: Anton Corbijn; with Sam Riley, Samantha Morton, Toby Kebbell, Alexandra Maria Lara, Joe Anderson, James Anthony Pearson, Harry Treadaway, Craig Parkinson. (R, 121 min.)
Control, Corbijn's narrative portrait of Joy Division's suicidal singer, Ian Curtis, is easily one of the finest films ever made about the collision of music, madness, and the human heart. Curtis (Riley) hung himself in the flat he shared with his estranged wife, Deborah (Morton), when he was 23 years old, and Joy Division was on the eve of its first American tour. Remarkable in temper and tone, poise and performance, *Control* transcends its punk and post-punk biographical underpinnings by virtue of its sullenly hopeful narrative. Shot in crisp black and white that mirrors the band's grim downbeats and Manchester's grimy brick-and-cobble avenues and alleyways, *Control* never overexplains its subject. Corbijn had the good fortune to photograph Joy Division back in the day, and his actors – Anderson, Pearson, Treadaway, and Riley – posing as bandmates perform all of Joy Division's songs with astonishing fidelity. (11/09/2007) – Marc Savlov
★★★★★ Dobie

DAN IN REAL LIFE

D: Peter Hedges; with Steve Carell, Juliette Binoche, Dane Cook, Alison Pill, Brittany Robertson, Marlene Lawston, Dianne Wiest, John Mahoney, Emily Blunt, Norbert Leo Butz. (PG-13, 99 min.)
If this is "real life," then count me out. It's not that there's anything terribly awful with it; it's just that what passes for real life here is as genially inoffensive and predictable as the average TV sitcom. More had been hoped for in this second writer/director project from Hedges. His previous effort, *Pieces of April*, followed a similar trajectory of family entanglement, though the characters had more edge and personality than they do in *Dan in Real Life*. Hedges also wrote the screenplays for *What's Eating Gilbert Grape?* and *About a Boy*, other works whose distinctive characters stand apart from mediocrity. This new film will garner Hedges his biggest audience, and let's hope that it allows him to return to his more quirkily crafted characterizations. Carell is in his subdued, *Little Miss Sunshine* serio-comic mode here as a widower who falls in love with the girlfriend (Binoche) of his brother (Cook). (10/26/2007) – Marjorie Baumgarten
★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Westgate

The Regular Lovers

The Regular Lovers (2005) *D: Philippe Garrel; with Louis Garrel, Clotilde Hesme, Julien Lucas, Eric Ruillat. (NR, 178 min.)* **Austin Film Society: French Maverick, Rebel Auteur – Four Films of Philippe Garrel.** The events of the Paris strikes of May 1968 provide the backdrop for this semiautobiographical story about youth, love, and distraction in the midst of revolution. For more on Garrel, whose son Louis stars in this monumental work, see "The Intersection of Personal and Political," p.56. @Alamo Ritz, Tue., 7pm; \$4, AFS members free.



THE DARJEELING LIMITED

D: Wes Anderson; with Owen Wilson, Adrien Brody, Jason Schwartzman, Anjelica Huston, Amara Karan, Wally Wolodarsky, Bill Murray, Irfan Khan. (R, 91 min.)
With his fifth feature film, Anderson boards another train of ironic whimsy, although this time the train is quite literal. An aura of preciousness remains as the filmmaker again pairs his stylized images and storytelling with characters and a plot that resist neat categorizations, twins narrative events with telling pieces of music, and searches for emotional connections among ironically detached characters. Brothers Francis (Wilson), Peter (Brody), and Jack (Schwartzman) Whitman, who have been apart since their father's death a year ago, embark on a train ride through India as something of a reunion tour and spiritual journey. Somewhere near the end of the journey is their aloof mother (Huston), a nun in a Himalayan outpost. Like the Whitman Sampler they are, each brother is marked by a unique bundle of quirky traits. In large measure, the film is a basic road picture, enhanced by compelling characters and atmosphere but reluctant to really go anywhere. (10/12/2007) – Marjorie Baumgarten
★★★ Dobie, Metropolitan

DRAGON WARS: D-WAR

D: Hyung-rae Shim; with Jason Behr, Amanda Brooks, Robert Forster, Aimee Garcia, Craig Robinson. (PG-13, 90 min.)
This South Korean pseudo-epic is some of the most ambitious crap I've ever seen. So much so, that a mere 10 minutes in, you're likely to be scratching your head, as I was, over the complex mythological backstory. Once shorn of its scaly, historical underpinnings, the plot goes something like this: There are good dragons and bad; both types are divine in nature and in need of two separate humans (Behr and Brooks) to render them celestial. Or something. None of that matters a lick, however, once the actual dragon combat begins: *D-War* is entertaining only when the giant monsters are onscreen. Scores of CGI artisans labored on the film to bring the dragons to life, and it shows in near-flawless sequences crowded with computer-generated action. But then a real, flesh-and-blood human being will wander into frame and spoil the whole illusion. Nuts to that. (09/21/2007) – Marc Savlov
★★ Movies 8

FRED CLAUS

D: David Dobkin; with Vince Vaughn, Paul Giamatti, John Michael Higgins, Miranda Richardson, Rachel Weisz, Kathy Bates, Chris "Ludacris" Bridges, Elizabeth Banks, Kevin Spacey. (PG, 115 min.)
How many laughs can one movie try to squeeze out of Vaughn being attacked by elves? Sadly, it's an awful lot. Vaughn plays Fred, the embittered older brother of the sainted (literally) Nicholas "Santa" Claus (Giamatti). Trading in jolly for neurotic, Giamatti's Santa possesses a self-deprecating everyman demeanor that makes him a brilliant actor. Meanwhile, Vaughn exploits a schtick that plays well with an ensemble (*Old School*) or in a supporting role (*Mr. and Mrs. Smith*) but cannot carry the comedy of an entire movie. Awash with amazingly talented actors, including Spacey as an efficiency expert, Higgins as a lovelorn elf, Richardson as Mrs. Claus, and Bates as Fred and Santa's mom, *Fred Claus* is sadly just an early lump of coal under the tree. (11/09/2007) – Toddy Burton
★ Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

THE GAME PLAN

D: Andy Fickman; with Dwayne "the Rock" Johnson, Madison Pettis, Kyra Sedgwick, Roselyn Sanchez, Morris Chestnut, Brian J. White, Hayes MacArthur, Jamal Duff. (PG, 110 min.)
How's this for a movie slogan: "The Rock Cries!" Maybe it doesn't have the same ring to it that "Garbo Laughs!" did when *Ninotchka* was first released in 1939, but dammit if it isn't something remarkable seeing a professional wrestler put away his muscles and turn on the waterworks. It's like watching middle-American machismo itself wilt in your hand. The reason the Rock is crying is because he's playing a self-centered superstar football quarterback whose perfectly empty, materialistic little life is being turned upside down by an 8-year-old daughter (the absurdly doe-eyed Pettis) he didn't know he had. *The Game Plan* was written by two women, Nichole Millard and Kathryn Price, and their female take on the world of professional football – though ridiculous – gives their movie a comic flavor that is refreshingly free of the masculine chest-bumping that defines other football films (and football in general). (09/28/2007) – Josh Rosenblatt
★★★ CM Round Rock, Metropolitan

GOOD LUCK CHUCK

D: Mark Helfrich; with Dane Cook, Jessica Alba, Dan Fogler, Lonny Ross. (R, 96 min.)
Pitched somewhere between Farrelly brothers-lite and some oddball *National Lampoon* outing, *Good Luck Chuck* is as familiar as it is charming, which isn't to say it's a good film. Far from it. A curse, which renders Charlie (Cook) unable to maintain a meaningful (or otherwise) relationship with women (who then go on to find their true Mr. Right the moment they dump poor Chuck), may be the engine that propels the story, but it's Cook and Alba's creepy chemistry that makes the film tolerable. She's Cam, a penguin-obsessed zoo worker, who meets cute with Charlie at a mutual friend's wedding. Strangely, amid the mediocrity and gross-out gags, there's some genuine comic talent, most notably from Cook and Fogler. Alba, for her part, mines the screwball comedy slapstick with pratfalls galore, though it's still tough to buy her, as the film asks us to, as a completely disjointed klutz. (09/21/2007) – Marc Savlov
★★ Movies 8

HALLOWEEN

D: Rob Zombie; with Malcolm McDowell, Brad Dourif, Tyler Mane, Daeg Faerch, Sheri Moon Zombie, William Forsythe, Scout Taylor-Compton, Danielle Harris, Udo Kier, Clint Howard, Danny Trejo, Bill Moseley. (R, 109 min.)
Halloween '07 is nothing if not viewable through the crimson-tinted cheaters of its inspiration, and since John Carpenter's original remains a pinnacle of the form, one wonders what's left to be reimagined. Zombie has fleshed out the backstory of Michael Myers to the point of making the "boogeyman" come off as a 10-year-old Manson wannabe (Faerch), who tortures animals and comes from a broken home, replete with a stripper mom (Moon Zombie) and sozzled stepfather (Moseley). It's an origin story of the worst kind, reducing what was once a nightmare to the level of pedestrian and banal, fodder not for Samhain-centric supernatural lunacy but for criminal-psychology texts. Zombie has a true, unflinching artist's eye for the sublimely horrific (a woodsy murder sequence is pregnant with disturbing, painterly compositions), but that eye is wasted here on an unnecessarily moribund history of sociopathy as it relates to Halloween in Haddonfield, Ill. (09/07/2007) – Marc Savlov
★★ Movies 8

★ THE HEARTBREAK KID

D: Peter Farrelly, Bobby Farrelly; with Ben Stiller, Michelle Monaghan, Malin Akerman, Jerry Stiller, Rob Corddry, Carlos Mencia, Danny McBride, Scott Wilson. (R, 115 min.)

This is a smart and winning remake of a 1972 Neil Simon-penned Elaine May film. Eddie (Stiller) meets and falls madly in love with Lila (Akerman), and before long, they're hitched and honeymooning in Cabo, where, to his dawning dismay, Eddie discovers why Match.com might not have been such a bad idea after all. Soon he meets the sweetly self-effacing Miranda (Monaghan), and suddenly it's love at first Jose Cuervo. But what to do about the sun-blown sex bomb upstairs? The Farrelly brothers have always leavened their gross-out strain of humor with a genuine affection for humanity's romantic foibles, and they restrain their more prurient inclinations even further here. This is a Farrelly film for adults, if not the entire family, and it's a charmer. Stiller varies his hapless Jew schtick just enough to make Eddie a wholly believable (and ultimately sym-

pathetic, if inadvertent) heartbreaker, and the entire production is marked by stellar comic performances. (10/05/2007) — Marc Savlov

★★★★ Movies 8

INTO THE WILD

D: Sean Penn; with Emile Hirsch, Marcia Gay Harden, William Hurt, Jena Malone, Brian Dierker, Catherine Keener, Vince Vaughn, Kristen Stewart, Hal Holbrook. (R, 140 min.)

On April 28, 1992, a scraggly 24-year-old tramp and adventurer named Christopher McCandless walked into the Alaskan wilderness and was never heard from again. These events were brilliantly chronicled in 1996 by Jon Krakauer in his bestselling book *Into the Wild*, which was permeated by a sense of sadness and distance that left readers with the unsettling feeling that McCandless' haunted life and solitary death would remain forever unknowable. Unfortunately, an unknowable character makes for a stubborn film protagonist. And though Penn has conjured



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Paris, Texas

Paris, Texas (1984) *D: Wim Wenders; with Harry Dean Stanton, Nastassja Kinski, Dean Stockwell, Aurore Clément, Hunter Carson. (R, 147 min.)* **Austin Cinematheque.** The road trips undertaken by Wenders' characters are like no others. After an absence of several years, a man played by Stanton tries to recover his relationship with his absent wife and son. The roundabout screenplay by Sam Shepard and adapted by Kit Carson, the dreamy cinematography by Robby Müller, and the dessicated performances of the living dead all leave their memorable residue. @Texas Union Theatre, Mon., 7:30pm; free.



up a beautifully acted, visually bracing film that captures all the romantic energy and freedom of a life spent outside the bounds of society, somewhere along the way he misplaced that melancholy that made McCandless' story so devastating. Penn's McCandless (a wiry Hirsch) is a 21st-century Hollywood hero, armed with a mouthful of self-help platitudes about following your heart and living life to the fullest but possessing precious little mystery. (10/19/2007) – Josh Rosenblatt
★★★ Alamo Ritz, Arbor

LARS AND THE REAL GIRL

D: Craig Gillespie; with Ryan Gosling, Emily Mortimer, Paul Schneider, Patricia Clarkson, Kelli Garner. (PG-13, 106 min.)
It takes a village not only to raise a child but also, in this case, to aid the delusional and help restore good mental health. This movie's premise is high concept and would be easy to dismiss were the film not so flawlessly executed. The screenplay by *Six Feet Under*'s Nancy Oliver mimics some of that show's tonal implausibilities, which nevertheless succeed here despite the odds. Gosling again displays his exacting commitment to characterization as Lars, a painfully reticent young man who shocks his family and community when he introduces them to the wheelchair-bound Bianca, a lifelike sex doll with whom he forges a chaste romantic relationship. Despite abundant opportunities for smutty gags, the film never ventures down this path, staying on its best behavior in matters of courtship and film ratings. The pitch-perfect delivery of the entire cast cannot be overstated, as their performances keep the film from straying into absurd or sickly sweet dimensions. (10/26/2007) – Marjorie Baumgarten
★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor

LIONS FOR LAMBS

D: Robert Redford; with Redford, Meryl Streep, Tom Cruise, Derek Luke, Andrew Garfield, Michael Peña, Peter Berg. (R, 92 min.)
“Wake up, America!” That’s the fervent call to action in *Lions for Lambs*, a well-intentioned and often nervy critique of America’s current complacency during a time of war. It’s also a bold film, structurally speaking, in that it’s little more than three interwoven stories in which two characters are simply engaged in a conversation. Even though there’s little action in the visceral sense, *Lions for Lambs* can be captivating, especially in the vigorous give-and-take exchange in the senator’s office about the failings of our country’s leadership and the popular press with respect to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Cruise’s controlled acting style works well in the role of a powerful man doing his best to sell a tough bill of goods, while Streep (as usual) is nothing short of miraculous as the reporter who must acknowledge her own complicity for today’s political state of affairs. The other two segments are less captivating (though never boring). (11/09/2007) – Steve Davis
★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Hill Country Galleria, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

LOVE IN THE TIME OF CHOLERA

D: Mike Newell; with Javier Bardem, Giovanna Mezzogiorno, John Leguizamo, Hector Elizondo, Fernanda Montenegro, Liev Schreiber, Catalina Sandino Moreno, Laura Harring, Unax Ugalde. (R, 140 min.)
It’s a testament to the talents of Bardem that he can currently be seen as both one of the most romantic heroes in modern fiction (Florentino Ariza in *Love in the Time of Cholera*) and one of the most violently sociopathic (Chigurh in *No Country for Old Men*). Sadly, the former performance cannot save what is otherwise a painful mess. Adapted from Gabriel García Márquez’s masterpiece, the

film stays true to the novel's story. Set primarily in Cartagena, Colombia, one century ago, the movie follows the unrequited obsessive love of Florentino over the span of 50 years. Director Newell and writer Ronald Harwood adapt Márquez’s work quite literally, and the effect is stifling. Trying (where Márquez succeeds) to convey romance, social commentary, and comedy, the film becomes funny when it’s supposed to be serious, confusing when it’s supposed to be poetic, and awkward when it’s supposed to be romantic. Every twist is a near miss. (11/16/2007) – Toddy Burton
★★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

MR. BEAN’S HOLIDAY

D: Steve Bendelack; with Rowan Atkinson, Emma de Caunes, Max Baldry, Willem Dafoe, Karel Roden. (G, 88 min.)
If you like Atkinson’s Mr. Bean character – his tooty yellow Mini, his busily working beetle brows, his tendency to point and grunt and eat shellfish whole – then you will be rewarded with 88 minutes of such. If you are not a fan, *Holiday* will not win you. Not even with its references to Jacques Tati, not even with Bean’s French moppet of a traveling sidekick (Baldry), not even with the winsome young actress (de Caunes) with whom Bean has a thankfully chaste attraction. At the end of the day, it’s either funny when Bean chases a chicken to get back his bus ticket, or it isn’t, and you know where you stand. Certainly Atkinson’s flair for being Bean has not diminished, but in the final analysis, this *Holiday* is a so-so late-summer diversion, unlikely to reignite Beanmania – or repeat the previous film’s boffo box office. (08/24/2007) – Marrit Ingman
★★ Movies 8

MR. MAGORIUM’S WONDER EMPORIUM

D: Zach Helm; with Dustin Hoffman, Natalie Portman, Jason Bateman, Zach Mills, Ted Ludzik, Rebecca Northan, Matt Baram, Kiele Sanchez. (G, 109 min.)
Mr. Magorium’s Wonder Emporium has whimsy coming out of its ears. Writer/director Helm is the writer of *Stranger Than Fiction*, which was also whimsical but had the common decency to be cynical as well. Now the brakes are off, and Helm can feel free to give voice to all his passion for child-like eccentricity without all the baggage that comes with making a movie for adults. What he’s come up with is a toy store run by a gleeful 200-year-old man-child (Hoffman). At his side are Molly Mahoney (Portman), a former child-prodigy, 10-year-old Eric Applebaum (Mills), and Henry Weston (Bateman), an accountant who wears a tie to work, meaning he’s lost touch with his inner child (God bless him). With his incessant cackling and giggling and adorable lisp, Hoffman is an unbearable force of nature, while Portman is disappointing as a young adult stuck in neutral. The film’s one saving grace is Bateman. (11/16/2007) – Josh Rosenblatt
★★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

MR. WOODCOCK

D: Craig Gillespie; with Billy Bob Thornton, Seann William Scott, Susan Sarandon, Amy Poehler, Ethan Suplee, Melissa Sagemiller, Jacob Davich. (PG-13, 87 min.)
Mr. Woodcock is the third in Thornton’s unofficial “exhausted-contempt” series (*Bad Santa*, *Bad News Bears*), in which he plays the title character, a legendary bullying gym teacher in small-town Nebraska. The movie begins 13 years ago, with Woodcock badgering a group of early-adolescent boys, including John Farley (Scott), who commits the cardinal gym-class sins of being overweight and unable to do a pull-up. Thirteen years later,

Paris Is Burning

Paris Is Burning (1991) *D: Jennie Livingston; with Dorian Corey, Willi Ninja, Pepper LaBeija, Kim Pendavis, Freddie Pendavis, Octavia Saint Laurent, Anji Xtravaganza, Venus Xtravaganza. (R, 76 min.)* **Scion Route 07 Independent Film Series.** Landmark documentary about the world of Harlem drag balls. Welcome reception with music by DJ Mel. Q&A with David Padilla. Cocktail reception following screening. Must RSVP at www.scion.com/route for admittance. (*) @Alamo South, Wed., 9:30pm.



John writes self-help books about letting go of your past and moving on with your life. Of course, John hasn’t let go of anything, which is made painfully clear when he returns home to Nebraska to find out that his mother (Sarandon) is engaged to Woodcock. Mr. Woodcock is funny for exactly five minutes. That subversive humor that helped turn Thornton into the unforgivably awful SOB exposes the rest of the film – with its focus on Scott’s self-pity and paper-thin frat humor – as a half-hearted retread. (09/14/2007) – Josh Rosenblatt
★★ Movies 8

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN

D: Joel Coen, Ethan Coen; with Tommy Lee Jones, Javier Bardem, Josh Brolin, Kelly Macdonald, Woody Harrelson, Garret Dillahunt, Barry Corbin, Tess Harper, Stephen Root. (R, 122 min.)
It seems at first like an odd pairing: the Coen brothers, they of the dark-humored film genre con-fiations, and Cormac McCarthy, the modern laureate of the Southern gothic novel. Yet the Coens’ adaptation of McCarthy’s as-if-written-for-the-screen *No Country for Old Men* becomes a marvelous meld of sensibilities. The film is essentially a crime drama, although also something of a chase film. It holds up against the Coens’ earlier genre masterpieces like *Miller’s Crossing* and *Fargo* and makes recent genre misfires like *Intolerable Cruelty* and *The Ladykillers* more forgivable. The *No Country for Old Men* storyline is as old as the template for the brothers’ first film, *Blood Simple*: Follow the money. At least three characters are chasing a satchel filled with \$2 million. One of them is Anton Chigurh (Bardem), a character who immediately leaps into the forefront of indelible American monsters. As it unfolds, the cat-and-mouse chase is a sheer delight to watch. The performances are captivating, too. (11/16/2007) – Marjorie Baumgarten
★★★★ Alamo Ritz, Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Arbor, Barton Creek Square, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

OM SHANTI OM

D: Farah Khan; with Shah Rukh Khan, Arjun Rampal, Kirron Kher, Shreyas Talpade. (NR, 168 min.)
Not reviewed at press time. Via a tale of reincarnation, this new Bollywood movie offers a tribute to the Hindi spectacles of the Seventies. (11/09/2007) – Marjorie Baumgarten
Tinseltown South

RATATOUILLE

D: Brad Bird; with the voices of Patton Oswalt, Lou Romano, Ian Holm, Janeane Garofalo, Brian Dennehy, Peter O’Toole, Brad Garrett. (G, 110 min.)
Director Bird knows that a good film, animated or otherwise, lives and dies on the narrative crux; you can match-move, motion-track-capture-and-control characters from now until Walt Disney defrosts, but a visual marvel minus a human emotion is like a sunset unseen. *Ratatouille* is the story of a young rat named Remy (voiced by Oswalt), who longs to leave behind the gauche comestibles that feed his breed in favor of creating his own haute cuisine in the culinary capital of the world: Paris! Via some extremely clever narrative maneuvering, Remy succeeds, sort of, by entering into a Cyrano de Bergerac-style partnership with Linguini (Romano), a trod-upon garbage boy at a former four-star restaurant. Linguini discovers both his way and his spine through Remy’s olfactory magic and a flirtation with the cook Colette (Garofalo). Pixar’s animation is simply flawless: colorful, deeply realized, and ably conveying both the chaos of the kitchen and the sensual allure of food well prepared. (06/29/2007) – Marc Savlov
★★★★ Movies 8

SAW IV

D: Darren Lynn Bousman; with Tobin Bell, Scott Patterson, Costas Mandylor, Betsy Russell, Lyriq Bent, Athena Karkanis. (R, 108 min.)
The series’ increasingly outlandish forays into the mindset of Rube Goldberg’s evil twin Jigsaw (Bell), coupled with the ante-upping characterization of amoral madness in the service of moral redemption – corkscrew logic, but always sensibly lunatic – have made for some downright existential bloodbathing. Jigsaw died in *Saw III* and here we get to witness his autopsy, stem to stern, thus giving him not only the last gasp and laugh, but Being and Nothingness as well. More than most, the *Saw* films have held fast to an internal logic that only gets more complex – yet never entirely lapses into outright inanity – with each successive episodic outrage. *Saw IV* finally offers Jigsaw’s horrific backstory in flashback, an unnecessary denuding that absolves no one, least of all this fleshless engineer and his hellbound heart. Redemption, absolution, morality: The *Saw* films speak truth to horror. Torture, you may recall, used to be an unparsable, unpardonable sin. Now it’s porn. (11/02/2007) – Marc Savlov
★★★★ Metropolitan

SOUTHLAND TALES

D: Richard Kelly; with Dwayne “the Rock” Johnson, Seann William Scott, Sarah Michelle Gellar, Justin Timberlake, Wallace Shawn, Miranda Richardson, Mandy Moore, John Larroquette, Nora Dunn, Kevin Smith. (R, 144 min.)
Coming six years after *Donnie Darko*, *Southland Tales* (writer/director Kelly’s sophomore effort) is an incomprehensible, self-indulgent mess of post-apocalyptic anxiety and political paranoia, a confusion of half-baked social critiques, pop-culture references, sci-fi whimsicalities, and anti-corporate satire straining for significance. The movie’s saturated plot should really come with footnotes and a dramatist personae. The story takes place after a nuclear bomb explosion sets off World War III and turns the United States into a hypermilitarized police state. Boxer Santaros (Johnson) is an amnesiac action-film star who’s running from an army of government agents, Marxist revolutionaries, and mad scientists (most of whom are played by long-unseen cast members of what seems like every movie and TV show made during the 1980s). If you’ve been waiting to see Timberlake as an Old Testament prophet quoting T.S. Eliot or if you’re comfortable with a world where the guy who played Stifler in *American Pie* is the messiah, then you’ve found your movie. (11/16/2007) – Josh Rosenblatt
★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor

SUPERBAD

D: Greg Mottola; with Michael Cera, Jonah Hill, Christopher Mintz-Plasse, Emma Stone, Martha MacIsaac, Seth Rogen, Bill Hader. (R, 114 min.)
Lately, producer Judd Apatow and his buddies have made comedies for a certain age group, not ones for the ages. Luckily, *Superbad* comes a little closer. The comedy is full of saturated one-liners, cute nicknames, quirky period details, neat turns of phrase, beery bons mots, colloquialisms, and ironic gangsta slang. The drama is all in Cera’s tone and Hill’s expression. It doesn’t hurt that the film’s credits are filled with Arrested Development refugees, including Mottola. Cera spins gold with every line throughout; Hill fulfills his fat-kid birthright as a gifted physical comedian. Mintz-Plasse, whose voice breaks every time he talks in his debut, is a fine sideman. There are drags: Scenes often go on too long in confined settings, the film threatens to collapse with every gag that falls flat, and the supporting cast is spotty. But mostly *Superbad* is as soulful and funky as its soundtrack. (08/17/2007) – Shawn Badgley
★★★★ Movies 8

30 DAYS OF NIGHT

D: David Slade; with Josh Hartnett, Melissa George, Ben Foster, Danny Huston, Manu Bennett. (R, 113 min.)

Adapted from Steve Niles' graphic novel, this film's high-concept stroke of genius lies not with its vampire clan but with the setting: the tiny hamlet of Barrow, Alaska, where residents do indeed experience the title's lengthy nightfall. On the eve of this yearly perma-night, Sheriff Eben Oleson (Hartnett) incarcerates a ratty, possibly insane drifter (Foster), who has arrived, Renfield-like, to herald the coming of far worse. Cut off from the outside world by the naturally inclement weather and wholly unnatural sabotage, the sheriff and a handful of Barrow's citizenry (including George as his estranged wife, Stella) are systematically attacked by the vampires. So much so that they're eventually forced to hole up in squalid attics and crawl spaces, able to do little more than peek out the windows and wait for the faraway sunrise. At its core, *30 Days of Night* is a siege Western relocated to the frozen North. (10/19/2007) – Marc Savlov
★★★ Tinseltown South

3:10 TO YUMA

D: James Mangold; with Christian Bale, Russell Crowe, Ben Foster, Peter Fonda, Alan Tudyk. (R, 117 min.)

Westerns and remakes are two film categories whose reputations have sagged in the modern age of moviegoing. *3:10 to Yuma* is the movie that puts the lie to these presumptive myths: This film is an example of a Western that appeals to a healthy-sized contemporary audience and is also a remake of the 1957 film of the same name, which is a hallmark of the type of psychological Western (i.e., *High Noon* and *Shane*) popular 50 years ago. Mangold's film is just different enough and yet faithful to the original to score a success. Casting Crowe and Bale, two of the finest actors around, as the story's two central characters is a coup. Apart from the final minutes of the film that strike its only false note, *3:10 to Yuma* barrels down the track at full force. (09/07/2007) – Marjorie Baumgarten
★★★★ Movies 8

TYLER PERRY'S WHY DID I GET MARRIED?

D: Tyler Perry; with Perry, Sharon Leal, Janet Jackson, Malik Yoba, Jill Scott. (PG-13, 118 min.)

In this latest effort, Perry characteristically presents himself in quadruple-threat-style as writer, director, producer, and actor. While his last film (*Tyler Perry's Daddy's Little Girls*) focused on one couple, this one branches out into four. Jackson plays a psychologist who vacations every winter with a group of close friends, all married couples and all dealing with much drama. As the couples vacation together, emotions run amok, dirt gets thrown, and purportedly, we all learn a little bit more about the true meaning of marriage. But frankly, I think I learned more about the true meaning of contrived melodrama. Take one abusive relationship, add some infidelity, a dead child, a mountain of guilt, several fur coats, a cat fight or two, and you've got yourself one hell of a melodramatic throwdown. And Perry follows these rules to the letter. (10/19/2007) – Toddy Burton
★ Millennium, Tinseltown South

UNDERDOG

D: Frederik Du Chau; with Peter Dinklage, James Belushi, Patrick Warburton, Alex Neuberger, Taylor Momsen; with the voices of Jason Lee, Amy Adams. (PG, 84 min.)

Disney's big-screen vehicle for Joe Harris' kitschy 1964 series has real live dogs, but it's pretty much a cartoon and not a very kitschy one. To say that the technology used to make movie dogs talk has improved is not to endorse its use, yet I never doubted that Lee's voice was emanating from the rather charming beagle who has been green-screened with a swirling cape and stoic expression. The elements of the film don't quite mesh: The villains are cartoony, but Du Chau aims for soggy family drama in his father-son story. In many ways, it's as perfunctory as a family movie can get. But somehow Lee sells it, with an amiable, game-for-whatever performance that is better than it has to be. (08/10/2007) – Marrit Ingman
★★ Movies 8

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- Jameson West, Associate Programmer



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Special Screenings

BY MARJORIE BAUMGARTEN

The symbol (*) indicates full-length reviews available online: austinchronicle.com/film.

THURSDAY 22

Blade Runner: The Final Cut (2007)
D: Ridley Scott; with Harrison Ford, Sean Young, Rutger Hauer, Daryl Hannah, Edward James Olmos, M. Emmet Walsh, William Sanderson, Joanna Cassidy, Brion James. (R, 117 min.) Recut more times than a plastic-surgery junkie, *Blade Runner: The Final Cut* promises to be exactly what its title promises: director Scott's last word on the subject. Cops and androids fight it out in 21st century L.A. in this Philip K. Dick film adaptation with fabulous art direction. This remastered and subtly rejigged print is most notable for its inclusion of the "scene with the unicorn," which makes abundantly clear that Ford's blade runner is indeed an android and not a human. The film remains a landmark spectacle. @Paramount, 7pm; \$8, \$6 children/students/seniors; see www.austentheatre.org/site/Calendar/635257780?view=Detail&id=14407 for special Film Fan commemorative tickets.

Blod Freak (1971) *D: Steve Hawkes and Brad F. Grinter; with Hawkes, Grinter. (NR, 86 min.)*
Terror Thursday. A guy becomes a marijuana addict and then gets a job at a poultry farm where some pesticide-contaminated meat turns him into a giant bloodsucking turkey. Happy Thanksgiving, y'all. @Alamo Ritz, 12mid; free.

Luther the Greek (1990) *D: Carlton J. Albright; with Edward Terry, Joan Roth, Stacy Haiduk, Thomas Mills. (NR, 80 min.)*
Tromatic Thursday. Horror film about a man who clucks like a chicken and bites the heads off of people. @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 10pm; free.

The Office (2007) TV at the Alamo. Free, although reservations are accepted with pre-purchase of a same-night \$5 food and beverage voucher at www.originalalamo.com. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 7:15pm.

SPACES

Transformers (2007) *D: Michael Bay; with Shia LaBeouf, Tyrese Gibson, Josh Duhamel, Anthony Anderson, Megan Fox, Rachael Taylor, John Turturro, Jon Voight. (PG-13, 140 min.)* Free. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.

FRIDAY 23

Blade Runner: The Final Cut (2007)
@Paramount, 4:30, 7, 9:30pm; \$8, \$6 children/students/seniors; see www.austinthetheatre.org/site/Calendar/635257780?view=Detail&id=14407 for special Film Fan commemorative tickets. (See Thu., 11/22.)

Punk's Not Dead (2007) *D: Susan Dynner. (NR, 93 min.)* Rock-photographer-turned-filmmaker Dynner presents a spiky but comprehensive and authoritative look at punk's cultural cohesion and longevity. Using lots of smartly edited interviews with a huge range of musicians and vintage performance clips, this documentary shows the evolution of punk rock from the Seventies No Wave to Eighties grunge rock to Nineties pop punk. It also details how punk survives in a world that has seemingly co-opted its torn jeans and freaky hairdos. @Alamo Drafthouse South, 12mid.

Road House (1989) *D: Rowdy Herrington; with Patrick Swayze, Kelly Lynch, Sam Elliott, Ben Gazzara. (R, 114 min.)*
Master Pancake Theater. This time the Pancake cutups hurl their commentary at one of the easiest-to-ridicule films ever,

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The *Austin Chronicle* is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the Dec. 7 issue is Monday, Nov. 26.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork.

Send submissions to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin 78765, fax 458-6910, or e-mail.

Contact Marjorie Baumgarten (Special Screenings): specialscreenings@austinchronicle.com; Wayne Alan Brenner (Offscreen): calendar@austinchronicle.com.

in which Swayze plays an itinerant Zen bouncer. @Alamo Ritz, 9:45, 12mid; \$12.50, \$10.50 students/seniors/AFS members.

RoboCop (1987) *D: Paul Verhoeven; with Peter Weller, Nancy Allen, Daniel O'Herlihy, Ronny Cox, Kurtwood Smith, Miguel Ferrer. (R, 103 min.)* Half man, half machine, fully lethal. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 12mid; \$8.25.

SATURDAY 24

Battlestar Galactica: "Razor" (2007) TV at the Alamo. Two-hour episode sets the groundwork for the events of Season 4. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid.

The Cat From Outer Space (1978)
D: Norman Tokar; with Ken Berry, Sandy Duncan, Harry Morgan, Roddy McDowall, McLean Stevenson. (G, 104 min.)
Kids Club. Like the title says ... this Disney cat's not from around these parts, but he can communicate telepathically with humans. @Alamo Drafthouse South, noon; free.

The Christmas Pops! Sing-Along Sing along with all your favorite pop and video stars' Christmas carols. @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

Nineties One-Hit Wonders Sing-Along
@Alamo Ritz, 10pm.

Punk's Not Dead (2007) @Alamo Drafthouse South, 12mid. (See Fri., 11/23.)

RoboCop (1987) @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 12mid; \$8.25. (See Fri., 11/23.)

The Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975)
D: Jim Sharman; with Richard O'Brien, Barry Bostwick, Susan Sarandon, Tim Curry. (R, 95 min.) Austin fans have been dressing up and doing the "Time Warp" thing live for 31 years straight. For more info see www.austinrocky.org. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid.

SUNDAY 25

Lord of the Rings Trilogy Hobbit Feast
D: Peter Jackson; with Elijah Wood. Twelve hours, three movies, seven meals. @Alamo Ritz, 10:30am.

SPACES

The Blues Brothers (1980) *D: John Landis; with John Belushi, Dan Aykroyd, John Candy, Carrie Fisher, Henry Gibson, James Brown, Ray Charles, Aretha Franklin, Cab Calloway. (R, 133 min.)* Dinner specials. Hosted by Jerm Pollet. (*) @Belmont, 8pm; free.

Offscreen

501 Studios: Soundstage + HD Theatre
501 Studios' historic soundstage in Downtown Austin now doubles as one of Texas' largest public theatres – with a Sony Qualia HD projector, a 28-inch screen, 180 (removable) seats, a vintage popcorn machine, and affordable rates. Need a venue for premieres, wrap parties, and concerts/plays/performances featuring projection? This could be the place. Also still available as a sound-stage/green screen. thomasallen@501studios.com.

SXSW Film Festival 2008 Call for Entries For films in the following categories: Narrative Feature, Documentary Feature, Narrative Short, Documentary Short, Animated Short, Experimental Short, and Music Video. To qualify as a short, your film must be 40 minutes or less; experimental shorts are those without a narrative thread. Submission price is \$25 for shorts and \$35 for features until Nov. 16. Then prices will increase to \$35 for shorts and \$45 for features until the final deadline of Dec. 7. See their website for details. 2008.sxsw.com/film/festival/submit.

The Network Austin Mixer Mingle with local film and media talents at these casual events, rubbing like-minded elbows and getting a load of



The Song Remains the Same

MONDAY 26

Heroes TV on the screen. @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 8pm.

Heroes TV Party. Free, although reservations are accepted with pre-purchase of a same-night \$5 food and beverage voucher at www.originalalamo.com. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 7:15pm.

My Name Is Albert Ayler (2007) *D: Kasper Collin. (NR, 79 min.)*
Epistrophy Arts. Free jazz saxophonist Ayler was an innovator of the Sixties, whose music was little understood at the time. He left the States and recorded and performed in Sweden but was found dead in New York by the age of 34. This documentary uncovers heretofore unseen performance footage and records the recollections of family, friends, and colleagues. Only the Monday screening is part of the \$2 Music Monday series. @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

Paris, Texas (1984) See p.90.
Sound of Rio (2005) *D: Mika Kaurismäki. (NR, 90 min.)*
Music Monday. The documentary is a tribute to "choro" music, which is the foundation of samba and bossa nova. It's directed by old Jim Jarmusch cohort Kaurismäki (*Tigrero*). @Alamo Ritz, 10pm; \$2.

who's filming who and what's up in the industry. *Wed., Nov. 28, 7pm. Mother Egan's Irish Pub, 715 W. Sixth, 478-7747. www.motheregansirishpub.com.*

The Screenplay Workshop: New Course Available Austin's only nondegree program dedicated to screenwriting is registering students for a new course, Screenwriting According to the Masters. You'll take a film assigned for outside viewing weekly and examine it from the perspective of its screenplay. Each class consists of a combination of lecture, film-clip viewing, and in-class writing exercises, taught by a professional screenwriter. *Through Dec. 12. Wednesdays 7-9pm. \$240. www.thescreeplayworkshop.org.*

Screen It Like You Mean It Austin Studios has a state-of-the-art screening room, and, lucky you, they've opened it up on a rental basis to the public, which means you can finally toss out that old Sony Watchman you've been thrusting in potential distributors' mugs for the past three years. Community and indie rates are available for the room, which sports an 18-foot-by-7-foot screen, 28 fixed theatre seats, and a surround-sound system and supports Super-35, 35mm, 16mm, VHS, and DVD formats. Handicap accessible, restrooms – the works. They also have a "break room" suitable for presentations, meetings, and general cinematic tomfoolery. 322-0145. www.austinstudios.org.

SPACES

The Bourne Ultimatum (2007) *D: Paul Greengrass; with Matt Damon, Julia Stiles, David Strathairn, Scott Glenn, Paddy Considine, Edgar Ramirez, Albert Finney, Joan Allen. (PG-13, 111 min.)* Free. (*) @Cafe Mundi, 8pm.

Happily N'Ever After (2007) *D: Paul J. Bolger; with the voices of Sigourney Weaver, Sarah Michelle Gellar, Freddie Prinze Jr., George Carlin, Michael McShane, Patrick Warburton, Andy Dick, Wallace Shawn, Jon Polito. (PG, 85 min.)* Free admission and popcorn. (*) @Southeast Austin Library, 6:30pm.

IMAX Theatre

For ticket prices call 936-IMAX or 936-TSHM or see www.thestoryoftexas.com. See Showtimes for dates and times.

Sea Monsters 3D: A Prehistoric Adventure (2007) *D: Sean MacLeod Phillips; narrated by Liev Schreiber. (NR, 40 min.)* National Geographic uses photo-realistic, computer-generated, 3-D animation to transport audiences back to the late Cretaceous period more than 65 million years ago, when a great inland sea divided North America in two. (*) Fri.-Sat., 10am, 3pm; Mon.-Thu. (11/29), 10am, noon
Texas: The Big Picture (2003)
D: Scott Swofford; narrated by Colby Donaldson. (NR, 39 min.) Panoramic shots of Texas grace the screen as Texas is shown to be a land capable of growing everything from grapefruit to microchips. Fri.-Sat., 11am; Mon.-Thu. (11/29), 11am

The Polar Express: An IMAX 3-D Experience (2004) *D: Robert Zemeckis; with Tom Hanks, Michael Jeter, Peter Scolar, Nona Gaye, Eddie Deezen. (G, 100 min.)* Chris Van Allsburg's magical tale of the Christmas Eve re-education of a Santa-doubting adolescent returns to the big screen in all its dimensions. Special opening-day kids activities will take place on Saturday. (*) Fri.-Sat., 1, 5, 7, 9; Sun., 1, 3, 5, 7; Mon.-Thu. (11/29), 2, 5, 7

Wildfire: Feel the Heat (1999)
D: Mike Slee; narrated by Andre Braugher. (NR, 40 min.) Crews put out really big fires around the world. Special activities from 1 to 3pm on Sunday include a team rappelling down the front of the museum and visits from Austin firefighters and Smokey the Bear. Fri.-Sat., noon, 4pm; Mon.-Thu. (11/29), 1, 4

TUESDAY 27

The Regular Lovers (2005) See p.88.

The Song Remains the Same (1976)

D: Peter Clifton and Joe Massot. (PG, 137 min.) The theatrical premiere of the digitally remastered Led Zeppelin concert film from 1976 screens in conjunction with its new DVD release. @Dobie, 7pm.

SPACES

Ocean's Eleven (2001) D: Steven Soderbergh; with George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, Andy Garcia, Julia Roberts, Bernie Mac, Eddie Jemison, Elliott Gould, Carl Reiner, Scott Caan, Casey Affleck, Shaobo Qin. (PG-13, 116 min.) Free. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.

WEDNESDAY 28

Office Girls (1971) D: Ernst Hofbauer; with Christian Engelmann, Peter Raschner, Karin Field, Reinhard Glennitz, Emily Reuer. (R, 86 min.) **Weird Wednesday.** Groping bosses and secretaries in this sex report from Germany. @Alamo Ritz, 12mid; free.

Paris Is Burning (1991) See p.90.

Teen Witch Sing-Along (1989) D: Dorian Walker; with Robyn Lively, Dan Gauthier, Joshua John Miller, Caren Kaye, Dick Sargent, Zelda Rubenstein. (PG-13, 90 min.) @Alamo Ritz, 7:30pm.

Unforgiven Feast (1992) D: Clint Eastwood; with Eastwood, Gene Hackman, Morgan Freeman, Richard Harris. (R, 127 min.) See cowboy menu online at www.drafthouse.com. @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 7:30pm.

SPACES

The Incredibles (2004) D: Brad Bird; with the voices of Craig T. Nelson, Holly Hunter, Samuel L. Jackson, Jason Lee, Spencer Fox, Sarah Vowell, Elizabeth Peña. (PG, 115 min.) Free. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 6:30pm.

THURSDAY 29

Army of Darkness Quote-Along (1993)

D: Sam Raimi; with Bruce Campbell, Embeth Davidtz. (R, 81 min.) @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

Nineties One-Hit Wonders Sing-Along
@Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm. (See Sat., 11/24.)

The Office (2007) @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 7:15pm. (See Thu., 11/22.)

Showgirls 2.0 (1995) See p.88.

Sorority House Massacre (1986) D: Carol Frank; with Angela O'Neill, Wendy Martel, Pamela Ross, Nicole Rio. (R, 86 min.) **Terror Thursday.** A girl feels empathy for a murderer who turns out to be her brother. @Alamo Ritz, 12mid; free.

SPACES

God Is Brazilian (2002) D: Carlos Diegues; with Antônio Fagundes, Wagner Moura, Paloma Duarte. (NR, 110 min.) **Latin American Film Series.** God decides to take a vacation. (*) @MonkeyWrench Books, 8pm.

Marrakech Express (1989) D: Gabriele Salvatores; with Diego Abatantuono, Fabrizio Bentivoglio, Cristina Marsillach, Giuseppe Cederna, Gigio Alberti, Massimo Venturiello. (NR, 110 min.) **Il Circolo Italiano.** From the director of the Oscar-winning *Mediterraneo*. No subtitles. @MEZ B0.306 100 (basement of Mezes on the UT campus), 8pm.

My Young Auntie (1981) D: Lau Kar-Leung; with Kar-Leung, Kara Hui, Gordon Liu. (NR, 121 min.) **Austin Kung Fu Academy.** Hui won the Best Actress award at the 1981 Hong Kong Film Awards for her role in this action comedy. @Austin Java (1206 Parkway), 8pm; free.

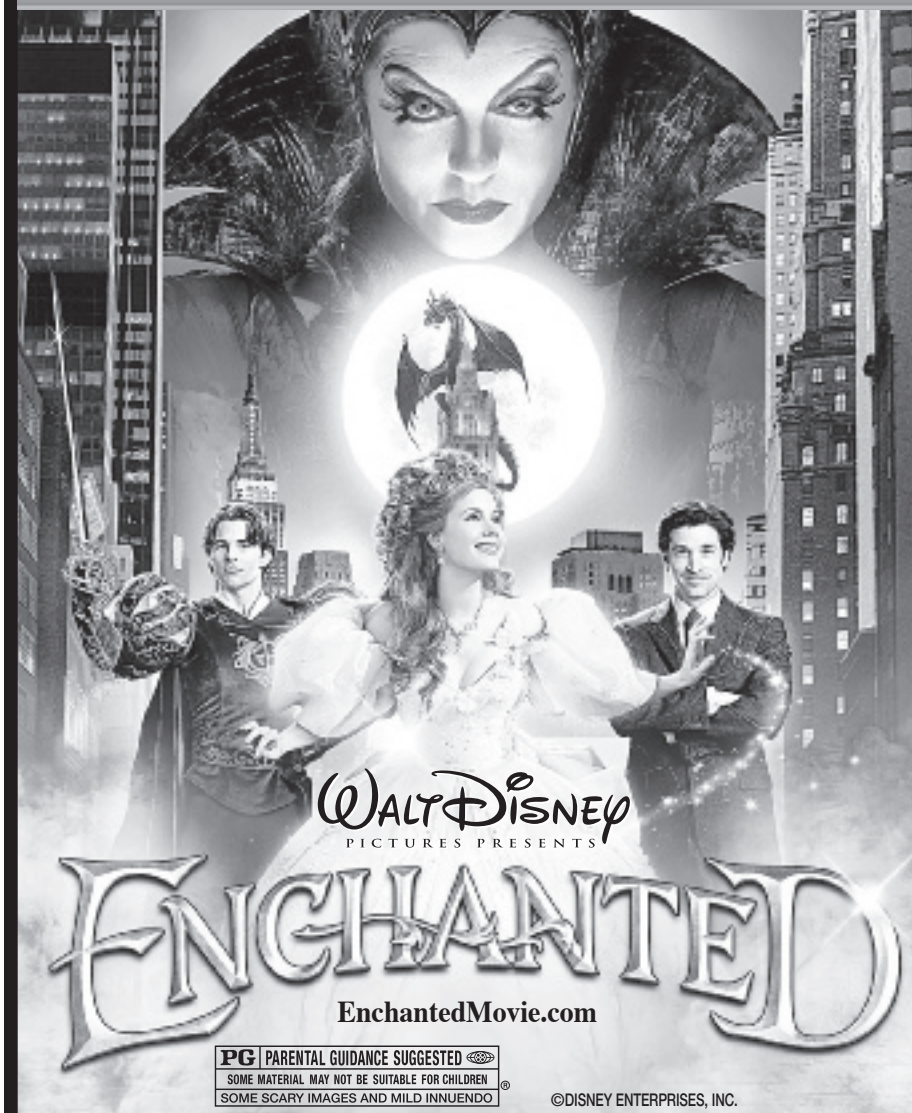
Ocean's Thirteen (2007) D: Steven Soderbergh; with Brad Pitt, George Clooney, Matt Damon, Andy Garcia, Al Pacino, Elliott Gould, Don Cheadle, Ellen Barkin, Shaobo Qin, Casey Affleck, Scott Caan, Bernie Mac, Carl Reiner, Eddie Izzard, Jerry Weintraub. (PG-13, 122 min.) Free. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.

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The video for “Sugar Water,” from Black Cobra’s sophomore album, *Bestial*, shows the duo playing live, interspersed with images of mushroom clouds, exploding vehicles, and general mayhem. Yes, it’s a total metal cliché, but it couldn’t be more appropriate for BC’s stun-heavy sound. Now based in San Francisco, guitarist/vocalist Jason Landrian and drummer Rafael Martinez take their bassless attack and detonate, as latest *Feather and Stone* (At a Loss Recordings) illustrates right from swerving opener “Five Daggers.” *Feather’s* “Below the Cusp” and “Thanos” are similarly brutal tempo-chasers, and the duo’s no stranger to the sludge; Landrian played guitar in Miami crushers Cavity and Martinez currently plays bass in SF’s Acid King. When the two first started collaborating, it was from opposite coasts.

“We would both record riffs, beats, sounds, or just ideas and send them to each other either via the Net or mail,” Landrian explains. “Then we would get on the phone and listen to the ideas together talking about what we liked and didn’t like, what we could change. We would do this over and over until we were happy with the finished song.”

That bicoastal collaboration expanded into 2004’s self-titled debut and then *Bestial*, a behemoth that prompts the question, “That’s just two guys?”

“I guess we saw it as a challenge in creating the music we wanted,” Landrian says. “We experimented with different sounds and tunings to compensate for the lack of bass. Once we were happy with the sound, we didn’t want or feel the need to deal with a third party.”

Feather and Stone goes even deeper into fantastical imagery and turns up the volume. The term “epic” gets thrown around a lot in metal, but Landrian doesn’t see that as a problem.

“Our imagery is just what we feel complements our music. We definitely have a strong affinity for epic things.”

— Audra Schroeder

SF metal lifers Slough Feg and local fiends the Roller and the Flood also play.



Black Cobra RED 7, THURSDAY 29

Soundcheck BY AUDRA SCHROEDER



POCKET FISHMEN, UNICORN MAGIC, PUNKAROOS

Room 710, Saturday 24

An old-school punk workout for your post-turkey bloat.

TOM VANDENAVOND, SCOTT H. BIRAM

Hole in the Wall, Saturday 24

Texas cage match, no shots barred.

RABBIT FIT

Parlor, Sunday 25

“Devo doing covers of the Carpenters”? Believe it.

D-MADNESS PROJECT

Ruta Maya, Monday 26

Dwayne Jackson, alchemist of hip-hop and funk.

BUTTERCUP

Mohawk, Tuesday 27

The San Antonio boys reside over “Grackle Tuesdays,” more pop than poop.

BILL BAIRD, THE LITTLE GENTLEMAN

Beerland, Wednesday 28

Locals, live, emoting.

VAMPIRE WEEKEND

Mohawk, Thursday 29

Jump on the buzz train, and don’t forget your thesaurus. With Brazos and Buffalo Breath.

Pink Reason, Psychedelic Horseshit

BEERLAND, FRIDAY 23

There must be something in the water in Columbus, Ohio, the center of a recent basement punk renaissance via revived indie label Siltbreeze. Midwest trio Psychedelic Horseshit is exhibit A of the *Blown Speaker Standards*, with *Magic Flowers Droned* (Siltbreeze) giving the appropriate “Bad Vibrations,” though it might just be the untuned guitars. Fellow Ohioans Pink Reason headline in darker tones from latest *Cleaning the Mirror* (Siltbreeze), along with When Dinosaurs Ruled the Earth local offshoot Expensive Shit.

— Audra Schroeder

Ghostface Killah PARISH, SATURDAY 24

With his upcoming seventh solo LP, *The Big Doe Rehab* (Def Jam), and Wu-Tang Clan comeback *8 Diagrams*, Ghostface hasn’t slowed 15 years into the game. The Staten Island rapper’s already one of hip-hop’s legends, a time-tested MC of outlandish style and intricate narratives. Though his allegiance to the Wu has faded of late, Ghost still comes with that famously soulful snarl, backed here by Rhythm Roots Allstars. DJ Mel spins. Free show; RSVP at www.scion.com/livemetro.

— Chase Hoffberger



Kelly Willis & Bruce Robison

PARAMOUNT THEATRE, SATURDAY 24

It’s a family affair as Kelly Willis and Bruce Robison bring the love to the Paramount for what’s become a local tradition – this is the fourth year of their holiday show – as well as a seasonal kickoff. They’ll remind everyone that “Baby, It’s Cold Outside” and share other chestnuts from their brimming-with-cheer songbooks. Soulhat’s Kevin McKinney opens with tidbits from his acoustic, all-instrumental *12 Holiday Hits*.

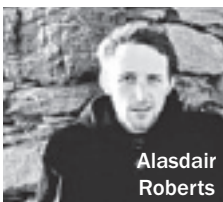
— Jim Caligiuri

Charalambides, Alasdair Roberts

MOHAWK, MONDAY 26

Minimalist guitar duo and Houston natives Tom and Christina Carter strip Americana down to its essence, exploring the roots of country and blues through long, repetitive psych-folk narratives. Latest *Likeness* (Kranky) is more traditional than transformative, relying on Christina’s enchanting vocals. Adding to the magic, Scottish songsmith Alasdair Roberts, formerly of Appendix Out, culls *The Amber Gatherers* (Drag City), while local visionaries All in the Golden Afternoon and Ralph White open.

— Austin Powell



AMH Open House AUSTIN MUSIC HALL, MONDAY 26

Last week, Direct Events owner Tim O’Connor stood at one *Titanic* tipping point of the soon to be state-of-the-art Austin Music Hall V.2, waved at the steel skeleton around him, and you could almost hear Pearl Jam rockin’ the free world inside. The official open house is Austin only – Del Castillo, Bobbie Nelson, Nakia & His Southern Cousins, Kacy Crowley, and Carolyn Wonderland (plus a special guest or two, of course) – but you’re going to want to see this. \$10 benefits the Health Alliance for Austin Musicians and the SIMS Foundation.

— Raoul Hernandez

Kill Me Tomorrow MOHAWK, WEDNESDAY 28

San Diego trio Kill Me Tomorrow’s 2004 full-length, *The Garbage Man and the Prostitute*, houses its neon glops of dub and dance damage in appropriate style. Bassist Kate Wentz and drummer/husband Zack lay grimy foundations as guitarist Dan Wise performs minor surgery. The recent addition of sax and percussion rounds out an upcoming release. Local psych vibe-ists Toko-Ri Get High and the Balcony open.

— Audra Schroeder



Miró Quartet BATES RECITAL HALL, THURSDAY 29

This internationally renowned chamber foursome, which has been in residence at UT for the past three years, conveys the Light and Dark Side of America with a two-night concert. The first evening of “dark” music features John Zorn’s *Necronomicon*, George Crumb’s *Black Angels* (*Images I*) – *Thirteen images from the dark land*, and the premiere of P. Kellach Waddle’s *String Quartet No. 2*. Friday’s “light” American fare includes Kevin Puts’ *Credo*. 8pm.

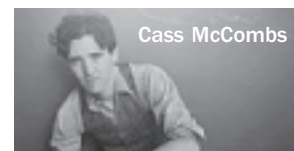
— Jay Trachtenberg

José González, Cass McCombs

PARISH, THURSDAY 29

Thanks to the Austin City Limits Music Festival, Austin’s gotten cozy with sensitive Swedish soul José González, whose newest meditation, *In Our Nature* (Mute), makes fellow countryman Jens Lekman sound like Cannibal Corpse. Equally of interest is L.A.-by-way-of-Baltimore Westerbergian moaner Cass McCombs, who from first EP 2003’s *Not the Way*, sounded like a contender. Moodier third LP *Dropping the Writ* (Domino), offers a “Crick in My Neck” from trying to get a better look at tomorrow’s bastard of the young.

— Raoul Hernandez



In-Stores

Friday: **Tom VandenAvond**, Cheapo Discs, 6pm

live music VENUES p.96

CLUB LISTINGS + roadshows p.98

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AND LANGUAGE ROOM

SAT NOV 24
JON McLAUGHLIN
WITH LEE SIMMONS



GOSPEL BRUNCH
WITH THE NEWSOUL INVADERS

WED NOV 28
THE WILDBIRDS
WITH THE VALENTINES

THU NOV 29
ANDY DAVIS
WITH MATT THE ELECTRICIAN

FRI NOV 30
THAT ONE GUY



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ROCK, SINGER-SONGWRITER

SUN DEC 2
POP, HIP-HOP/R&B, LATIN

TUE DEC 4
SPIRITUAL, COUNTRY

WED DEC 5
FILM & ANIMATION, ELECTRONIC, DANCE

WED DEC 12
GIRL IN A COMA
WITH THE CLIKS

THU DEC 13
LUKE BRYAN

FRI DEC 14
MICE AND RIFLES
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MONDAY • 10PM
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WEDNESDAY • 10PM
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12AM
WAYNE HANCOCK
SHOW AT 9PM
10:30PM
SHOTGUN PARTY
9PM
KENNETH BRIAN
FRIDAY NOV 23
H. H. THE LEGENDARY
BLUES SPECIALISTS

12AM
HAYES CARL

10PM
JOHN EVANS
SAT NOV 24
MATINEE 3-7PM
REDD VOLKAERT

11:30PM
THE MOTHER TRUCKERS

10PM
LZ LOVE
SUN NOV 25
WITH REDD VOLKAERT
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PLANET CASPER
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BARFIELD
ALL NIGHT LONG
WEDNESDAY NOV 28

H.H. **SHOTGUN PARTY**
JAMES McMURTRY

Fastball
THURSDAY NOV 29
HAPPY HOUR 6:30-9PM
THE MOTHER TRUCKERS
AMPLIFIED HEAT
JUNGLE ROCKERS
UGLY BEATS

12:30AM
11:15PM
10PM
H.H. THE LEGENDARY BLUES SPECIALISTS
Red Stick Ramblers

12AM
JON DEE GRAHAM
"SWEEP AWAY"
SATURDAY DEC 1
MATINEE 3-7PM
REDD VOLKAERT
Red Stick Ramblers
10PM
MARIO MATTEOLI

12AM
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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23

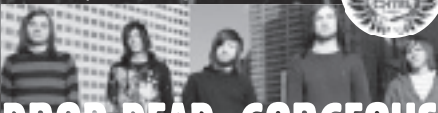
INSIDE, DOORS @8PM:
MARKY RAMONE & FRIENDS
THE QUEERS • SUPERZERO • THE SWEETHEARTS
LOUNGE, DOROS @8PM:
JUSTIN BANKSTON'S B-DAY BASH
TIA CARRERA • THE PROMISE BREAKERS
THE PAPER SOUTH • ST37

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24

INSIDE: **FIREKILLS**
SAY HELLO TO THE ANGELS
GOODNIGHT GODDESS • RED LIGHT LOVE RULES
LOUNGE, DOORS @8PM:
THE STRANGEBOYS • RIPE
THE CARROTS • THE DAZZLING KING SOLOMON

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25

OUTSIDE, SHOW @7PM



DROP DEAD, GORGEOUS
ALESANA • THE NUMBER TWELVE LOOKS LIKE YOU
IDIOT PILOT

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26

OUTSIDE, SHOW @7PM



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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

LOUNGE: 101X HOMEGROWN W/
THE BLACK AND WHITE YEARS
THE LAUGHING • THE ALWAYS ALREADY

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29

OUTSIDE, DOORS@8PM:



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WILLOWZ • WE ARE THE FURY

LOUNGE, DOORS @8PM:
BLACKLISTED INDIVIDUALS • MARS WARS
YADIRA BROWN • THE UNDERWATER ORCHESTRA
DJ STATIC

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30

LOUNGE, DOORS @8PM:
ALELA DIANE(CANCELLED)
KRISTI RAE • UNFORTUNATE HEADS
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BROTHERHOOD • DEAD BY KNIGHT

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THE SOLDIER THREAD

OUTSIDE:
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(WORLD BURNS TO DEATH)
THE KRUM BUMS • ROGERS PORN COLLECTION
HOODRATS • DESKONOCIDOS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

INSIDE: **AS CITIES BURN**
DEAR & THE HEADLIGHTS
THE PHOTO ATLAS • OCEANS FIRING

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3

LOUNGE: **CAVE • UME • MEGAZILLA**
WE GO MACHETE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4

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CLASH OF THE HEROES:
LEGENDS OF AUSTIN
GUITAR HERO 3 COMPETITION

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

INSIDE: **LOOK MEXICO • CHASE PAGAN**
(MILITIA GROUP)
MRANDMRSMAYS • CRAIG MARSHALL

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6

OUTSIDE: **CHEMLAB • USSA • SKELETON KEY**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

OUTSIDE:



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AWESOME COLOR

INSIDE: **CLIPD BEAKS**
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MOHAWK, 912 Red River, 482-8404
MOMO'S, 618 W. Sixth, 479-8848
MOONRIVER, 2002 N. Pace Bend Rd., Spicewood, 512/264-2064
MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB, 715 W. Sixth, 478-7747
MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS, 3825 Lake Austin Blvd., 477-2900
MULLIGAN'S, 900 RR 620 S., 263-3305
NASTY'S, 606 Maiden, 453-4349
NORTH BY NORTHWEST, 10010 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 467-6969
NUOVO LEON, 1501 E. Sixth, 479-0097
NUNO'S ON SIXTH, 422 E. Sixth, 833-5133
NUTTY BROWN CAFE, 12225 Hwy. 290 W., 301-4648
THE OAKS, 10206 FM 973 N., 278-8788
THE OASIS, 6550 Comanche Trail, 266-2442
THE OFFICE LOUNGE, 1207 Leander Rd., Georgetown, 512/869-1137
THE OLD COUPLAND INN & DANCEHALL, 101-103 Hoxie, Coupland, 512/856-2226
ONE 2 ONE BAR, 121 E. Fifth, 473-0121
PARAMOUNT THEATRE, 713 Congress, 472-5470
PARDNERS, 1110 Palm Valley, Round Rock, 512/244-1204
THE PARISH, 214 E. Sixth, 479-0474
THE PARLOR, 100-B E. North Loop, 454-8965
PARMER LANE TAVERN, 2121 Parmer #1, 339-0663
PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE, 5001 E. Ben White, 444-2020
PLOOSH, 617 Red River, 478-0099
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL, 22308 Hwy. 71 W., Spicewood, 512/264-0318
THE PUB, 1826 Mays, Round Rock, 512/246-8007
RABBIT'S LOUNGE, 1816 E. Sixth, 473-3771
RACK DADDY'S, 4410 E. Riverside, 389-1577
RADISSON, 111 E. Cesar Chavez, 478-9611
RANCH 616, 616 Nueces, 479-7616
REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE, 13450 Research, 335-5115
RED 7, 611 E. Seventh, 476-8100
RED EYED FLY, 715 Red River, 474-1084
RED FEZ, 209-B W. Fifth, 478-5120
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RENAISSANCE HOTEL, 9721 Arboretum, 343-2626
RILEY'S TAVERN, 8894 FM 1102, Hunter, 512/392-3132
RINGSIDE AT SULLIVAN'S, 300 Colorado, 495-6504
ROADHOUSE, 1103 Wonder, Round Rock, 512/218-0813
THE ROCK ROOM, 101 E. Main, Round Rock, 512/244-5450
ROMEO'S GEORGETOWN, 701 Main, Georgetown, 512/868-1300
ROMEO'S, 1500 Barton Springs Rd., 476-1090
ROOM 710, 710 Red River, 476-0997
ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE, 11800 Lamar, 835-2414
RUTA MAYA, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637
SAM'S TOWN POINT, 2115 Allied, 282-0083
SAXON PUB, 1320 S. Lamar, 448-2552
SCOOT INN & BEER GARDEN, 1308 E. Fourth, 478-6200
SHAKESPEARE'S PUB, 314 E. Sixth, 472-1666
SHENANIGANS, 13233 Pond Springs Rd., 258-9717
SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL, 9012 Research Ste. C-1, 380-9443
SHOAL CREEK SALOON, 909 N. Lamar, 474-0805
SPEAKEASY, 412 Congress, 476-8017
SPIDER HOUSE PATIO BAR, 2908 Fruth, 480-9562
STARDUST CLUB, 11940 Manchaca, 280-8590
STUBB'S, 801 Red River, 480-8341
T.C.'S LOUNGE, 1413 Webberville Rd., 926-2200
TAVERN IN THE GRUENE, 830 Gruene Rd., New Braunfels, 830/608-0438
TEXAS BAR & GRILL, 14611 Burnet Rd., 255-1300
THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ, 301 W. Riverside, 472-9304
III FORKS STEAKHOUSE, 111 Lavaca, 474-1776
TRIPLE CROWN, 206 N. Edward Gary, San Marcos, 512/396-2236
TROPHY'S, 2008 S. Congress, 447-0969
VICTORY GRILL, 1104 E. 11th, 804-1944
THE WATER TANK, 7309 McNeil Dr., 331-9831
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE CIRCLE C RANCH, 9600 Escarpment Blvd., 301-1007
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE, 6203 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 418-9700
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE, 1106 W. 38th, 451-5245
WHISKY BAR, 303 W. Fifth, 441-8599
Y BAR & GRILL, 7720 Hwy. 71 W., 394-0220
Z'TEJAS, 1110 W. Sixth, 478-5355

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americana

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 24
ERIK HOKKANEN
surf, twang, gypsy

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 25
SEAN HOPPER QUARTET
jazz

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 30
WENDY COLONNA
soul grooves

FRI & SAT 6:30 - 9pm
SUNDAYS 12:30 - 3pm

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WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 28
JANE BOND & CHAD TRACEY
country, americana

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 29
RUMBULLION
french

SUNDAY DECEMBER 2
DOUG HALL TRIO
jazz

WED & THURS 6:30 - 9pm
SUNDAYS 12:30 - 3pm

@WESTGATE:

Dec 5 - **TEXAS EASTSIDE KINGS**
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Dec 12 - **WOODY WOOD TRIO**
Dec 13 - **GILMORE & MOORE**

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Shepherd's Dog
- 2) OCTOPUS PROJECT
Hello Avalanche
- 3) LYLE LOVETT
& HIS LARGE BAND
It's Not Big, It's Large
- 4) TONI PRICE
Talk Memphis
- 5) OMAR KENT DYKES
& JIMMIE VAUGHAN
On the Jimmy Reed
Highway
- 6) SPOON
Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga
- 7) GHOSTLAND
OBSERVATORY
Paparazzi Lightning
- 8) STEVIE RAY VAUGHAN
Solos, Sessions
& Encores
- 9) STORYVILLE
Live at Antone's
- 10) STEVE EARLE
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OPEN STAGE
hosted by GRAHAM WEBER & ABI TAPIA 7pm sign-up!

from the GOURDS free show! 8:30pm
SHINY RIBS
WITH KEVIN RUSSELL

8:30pm
JOHN GORKA
guest star AMILIA K SPICER

an evening with austin's own
MONTÉ MONTGOMERY

RAJAMANI ENSEMBLE

8:30pm
BRANDON RYDER & WALT WILKINS

PETER CASE GURF MORLIX
WITH ROMI MAYS 8:30pm

birthday soiree!! 8:30pm
TISH HINOJOSA

ELLIS PAUL SONIA
OF DISAPPEAR FEAR

www.utexas.edu/student/txunion/ae/cactus

12.03 OPEN STAGE	01.25 JOHN HAMMOND
12.10 OPEN STAGE	01.26 AL STEWART
12.11 DYLAN THOMAS PROJECT	02.07 OVER THE RHINE
12.12 COLIN GILMORE COREY BRANAN	02.08 OVER THE RHINE
12.13 DANNY SCHMIDT	02.15 TOM RUSSELL
12.15 LOUNGE LIZARDS	02.18 TIM FINN
01.18 CHRIS SMITHER	02.23 DEAN & BRIT (LUNA)

The Cactus is located inside the Texas Union.
Happy Hour is 4-7pm, Monday-Friday. Tickets @ the door & all shows @ 9pm unless otherwise noted.
23rd & Guadalupe. 475-6515.

www.utexas.edu/student/txunion/ae/cactus

club listings

Thu 22

311 CLUB Joe Valentine (8:30)
ANTONE'S Two Guy Trio, the Scabs (10:00)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Li'l Steph & the Chromatics
BEAUTY BAR Migas
BEERLAND Spider Bags, Golden Boys
BROKEN SPOKE Jesse Dayton
CLUB DE VILLE Emily Sparks, the Breathers
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Paris 49 (10:00); In the Club: Turkey Trot w/ Kenneth Brian, Shotgun Party, Wayne Hancock (9:00)
ELEPHANT ROOM Turkey Dazed w/ Jon Blondell (9:30)
LOVEJOYS The Dickens
MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL DJ Havoc (8:00)
MOMO'S Stephen Doster, Philip Gibbs (10:00)
RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)
ROOM 710 Slowly Truth Dies, Wolf in the Snow, Insecticide
RUTA MAYA Thanksgiving Barn Dance, Potluck w/ Leeann Atherton, Slim Richey's Dream Band (4:00)

SAXON PUB The Fabs, George Devore, Carolyn Wonderland, Uncle Lucius
SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Billy D.
SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Johnny Goudie, Ryan Holley
TEXAS BAR & GRILL Brandon Raines
TRIPLE CROWN Molly Hayes (6:00)

Fri 23

311 CLUB Brandon Gist, Joe Valentine (8:30)
AGAVE Randy Pavlock (7:30)
ANTONE'S Mother's Anthem, Bob Schneider (10:00)
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Grazmatics
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Pubcrawler
BEAUTY BAR Prince Klassen, Manikin, Attack Formation
BEERLAND Expensive Shit, Psychedelic Horseshit, Pink Reason
THE BELMONT Planet Texas
BOTTICELLI'S Aaron Franz
'BOUT TIME DJ Element
BROKEN SPOKE Two Tons of Steel
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/ Nicole

Acts are chronologically listed. Schedules are subject to change, so please call clubs to confirm lineup. Times are given where known and are PM unless otherwise noted.

LISTINGS ARE FREE AND ARE PRINTED ON A SPACE-AVAILABLE BASIS.

HELLO, CLUBS AND BANDS: Club listings deadline is Monday, 9am, for that week's issue, published on Thursday. Send venue name, address, phone number, acts, and times to: Club Listings, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; fax 458-6910; phone 454-5766 x159; or e-mail clubs@austinchronicle.com.

CEDAR STREET BettySoo, Radiostar (6:00)
CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Albert & Gage (6:30)
CHEAPO DISCS Tom Vandenavond (6:00)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Gregg Andrews (5:30)
CLUB ONE 15 Kanei, Agent Marst, Recall (9:00)

roadshows

NOVEMBER

THU 22

Spider Bags, Beerland
Wayne Hancock, Continental Club
Insecticide, Room 710

FRI 23

Pink Reason, Psychedelic Horseshit, Beerland
Kanei, Club One 15
Marky Ramone, the Queers, Emo's
Crew 54, Flamingo Cantina
Ese, Gypsy Pistoleros, Headhunters
Lil' Brian & the Travelers, Joker, Jovita's
Totally Rude Losers, Terror Charge, the Skuds, Red 7
Mostly Dead, Red Eyed Fly
Matt Wilson, Ringside at Sullivan's
Captured! by Robots, the Rape Ape, Room 710
Don Chani, Ruta Maya

SAT 24

Ripe, Emo's
Rodney Hayden, Gruene Hall
Under the Gun, Headhunters
David Lee Kaiser, Hill's Cafe
Arizona, Mohawk
Ghostface Killah, the Parish
Oh Johnny Girls, Red 7

SUN 25

Terri Fann, B.B. Rovers
Drop Dead, Gorgeous With Alesana, the Number Twelve Looks Like You, Idiot Pilot, Emo's
Daughters of the Confederacy, Momo's
The Australian Pink Floyd, Paramount Theatre
Secret Lives of Freemasons, Valeyra, A Verse Unsung, DGK, Skare
Tactic, Red 7
New Soul Invaders, Stubb's

MON 26

Hangar 18, Glue, National Front, Beauty Bar
GWAR, Three Inches of Blood, Emo's
Charalambides, Alasdair Roberts, Mohawk
The Winks, the Parlor

TUE 27

Mesach Jackson, Club One 15
Silverchair, the Vanished, La Zona Rosa
Buttercup, Delta Spirit, Mohawk
Javier Cruz, the Parlor
Mic the Tiger, Room 710

WED 28

Kill Me Tomorrow, Mohawk
The Wildbirds, the Valentines, Stubb's

THU 29

People Noise, Pale, Beauty Bar
John Gorka, Amelia K. Spicer, Cactus Cafe
Krista L.L. Muir, Shane Watt, DJ Jester the Filipino Fist, Club de Ville
Guymon Adams, Elysium
Electric Six, Willowz, We Are the Fury, Emo's
JoJo Serrato's Bad Apples, Flamingo Cantina
The Soldier Thread, Lucy's on the Square
Vampire Weekend, Mohawk
José González, Cass McCombs, the Parish
Low Red Land, the Parlor
Black Cobra, Slough Feg, Red 7
L.A. Guns, Red Eyed Fly
Flamin' Hellcats, Riley's Tavern
Johnny Vomit, Room 710
Andy Davis, Stubb's
Jack Stafford Foundation, Trophy's
Jeff Parker, Whisky Bar

for your benefit

See austinchronicle.com for complete listings.

FRI 23

KVRX Benefit w/ Green Belt Soundsystem, DJ Dubbist, Judge, Don Chani, McPullish, **Ruta Maya**

SAT 24

West Memphis 3 Benefit, Beerland
Capital Area Food Bank Benefit w/ Foscoe

Jones, Mark Utter & Blackland, Shelley King, Hundred Year Flood, Jesse Moore, Peacefield, **Momo's**

MON 26

HAAM Benefit, Open House w/ Carolyn Wonderland, Kacy Crowley, Nakia & His Southern Cousins, Bobbie Nelson, Del Castillo, **Austin Music Hall**



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9PM

JOHN POINTER
MONTE MONTGOMERY 10PM

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CAROLYN WONDERLAND 8:00 \$8
GEORGE DEVORE 10:15 \$8
UNCLE LUCIUS 12:30 \$5
No Cover Happy Hour 6:00 with The FABS
Thursday Nov. 22

Friday & Saturday Nov. 23 & 24
JOE ELY
WITH JOEL GUZMAN
Show 8:00 Friday, 9:00 Saturday
Tickets on sale now - \$20 adv, \$25 door
www.FrontGateTickets.com

Friday **GEORGE DEVORE** 11:30 \$10
Saturday **GUY FORSYTH** 11:00 \$10

THE RESENTMENTS
7:00 \$5 cover
WALTER TRAGERT STEVEN WILL & THE SALINGERS 12:00
Sunday Nov. 25

BOB SCHNEIDER'S LONELYLAND \$10 cover 8:30
UNCLE LUCIUS 7:00
NATHAN SINGLETON & HIS SIDESHOW TRAGEDY 11:00 \$5
NATHAN HUBBLE 12:30
Monday Nov. 26

MPTU MALFORD MILLIGAN MARK ANDER & PHIL BROWN \$8 10:00
BETTYSOO \$5 8:00
NATHAN BRYCE & LOADED DICE 12:00
No Cover Happy Hour 6:00 with The Stingrays
Tuesday Nov. 27

MONTE MONTGOMERY 10:00 \$10 cover
PAULA NELSON 8:00 \$5
MEAGAN TUBB 12:00 \$5
No Cover Happy Hour 6:00 with Sunny Sweeney
Wednesday Nov. 28

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THU 22 NOV CLOSED
DRUNK ON TURKEY & WHISKEY
FRI 23 NOV JONATHON TYLER
& THE NORTHERN LIGHTS
SAT 24 NOV ARIZONA, TBA
MON 26 NOV CHARALAMBIDES
ALASDAIR ROBERTS
ALL IN THE GOLDEN AFTERNOON
RALPH WHITE (INSIDE)

TUE 27 NOV NIRVANA UNPLUGGED
DVD WATCH PARTY (6PM)
GRACKLE TUESDAY w/ BUTTERCUP (9-11PM)
FOLLOWED BY DELTA SPIRITS

WED 28 NOV KILL ME TOMORROW
TOKO RI GET HIGH • THE BALCONY

THU 29 NOV VAMPIRE WEEKEND
BRAZOS, BUFFALO BREATH

FRI 30 NOV PARTYENDS.COM PRESENTS ...
ASTRONAUTALIS
LISTENER PROJECT • TRANSMOGRAPHY

SAT 1 DEC TIA CARRERA

TUE 4 DEC GRACKLE TUESDAY
W/BUTTERCUP (9-11PM)

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SUN. 11/25 @ 11AM

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MON. 11/26 @ 8PM
Lee Duffy
Floyd Domino
Joe Manuel & more FREE SHOW

FRI. 11/30 @ 9PM \$10
Mingo Fishtrap

AUSTIN DAZE PRESENTS Ruta Maya WEEKENDS

THURS 11/22 OPEN THANKSGIVING DAZE
HAVE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!!
7PM LEEANN ATHERTON AND FRIENDS
THANKSGIVING POT LUCK BARN DANCE

FRI 11/23 6PM IDGY VAUGHN
9 PM KVRX Benefit Show
Don Chani
McPulish and Judge
Green Belt Sound System
Paul Baker Light Show

SAT 11/24 3PM YOUTH POETRY SLAM
6PM SETH WALKER AND
WARREN HOOD & FRIENDS
10PM NICK D PRESENTS
THE 512 PART 1

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3601 S. Congress, Suite D 200, Penn Field, South Austin,
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Ruta Maya

FREE KIDS SHOW 10:30 AM EVERY SUNDAY
6:30 PM "Last Sunday"
Featuring Eliza Gilkyson
9 PM Seed at Zero, David Israel

MON 11/26 7 PM Matthew Robinson
8 PM Dawni, 8:30 PM Diasporic
9:30 PM Kalu James
10 PM D Madness Project

TUESDAYS ARE OPEN MIKE - NO COVER!
6 PM Poetry Open Mic
9 PM Music Open Mic
8 PM Poetry Karaoke on Porch

WED 11/28 CUBAN DANCE NIGHT
FREE Salsa Lesson 7:30 PM
Live Salsa 9 PM with CIENFUEGOS

Fresh Organic Coffee!
FREE YOGA - Check Online Calendar

club listings << FROM FRIDAY

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Mike Flanigin's B-3 Trio; In the Club: The Blues Specialists (6:30), John Evans, Hayes Carl (10:00)

COOL RIVER CAFE The Grooves

COTTON CLUB People's Choice

DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (8:00)

EGO'S Yarmigos, Nakia

EL SOL Y LA LUNA Oliver Rajamani (7:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Pete Rodriguez Quintet (9:30)

EMO'S Inside: The Sweethearts, Superzero, the Queers, Marky Ramone; Lounge: ST 37, the Paper South, Promise Breakers, Tia Carrera

EVANGELINE CAFE Redd Volkaert (10:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA DJ Shoestrings, Crew 54, Brokebread, Meridian Prime

FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE Jim Stringer (8:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Stephanie Fix (10:30)

FREDDIE'S PLACE K'Cee Edwards (3:00)

FURR'S FAMILY DINING Carlton Lombard (6:00)

GRUENE HALL Josh Grider, Charlie Robison (8:00)

HANOVER'S Skyrocket

HEADHUNTERS Bruh, Sons of Nuns, Streetlight Suzy, Gypsy Pistoleros, Ese

HOLE IN THE WALL Black Panda, Scott H. Biram

IGUANA GRILL Tango Zebra, Kristie Nalley (6:00)

JAVA LOUNGE AT AUSTIN JAVA Little Jimmys (9:00)

JOVITA'S Joker, Lil' Brian & the Travelers (8:00)

LA PALAPA Karaoke w/ Big Jim (8:00)

LAMBERTS Slim Richey's Dream Band (6:30), Gary Clark Jr. (10:30)

LOCKER ROOM SPORTS BAR Drawing Back

LUCKY LOUNGE 80H Project (9:00)

MAIKO SUSHI LOUNGE DJ Thibault: Sushi Secret Agent

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Leeann Atherton (7:00)

MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL Dysfunkshun Junkshun (9:30)

MOMO'S Patrice Pike (11:00)

NORTH BY NORTHWEST Philip Gibbs

THE OAKS Mario Matteoli

THE OLD COUPLAND INN & DANCEHALL The Derailers (7:00)

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Mary Welch y los Curanderos (8:00)

RACK DADDY'S Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)

RADISSON Winton Reynolds Jazz Trio

RED 7 Damage Pants, Code Named Code, Monuments, Cassette, the Skuds, Terror Management Theory, Terror Charge, Totally Rude Losers, Rex 84

RED EYED FLY Cachateo, Mostly Dead, Vermicious Canids, Sixes & Eights, Phoenix Saga

RED FEZ DJ Inverse (10:00)

REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB W.C. Clark (8:30)

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)

RINGSIDE AT SULLIVAN'S Matt Wilson (8:00)

THE ROCK ROOM Acustyka (9:00)

ROMEO'S Rob Greenfield

ROOM 710 The Rape Ape, Seizures, Captured! by Robots

RUTA MAYA Idgy Vaughn (6:00), KVRX Benefit w/ Green Belt Soundsystem, DJ Dubbist, Judge, Don Chani, McPullish

SAXON PUB The Regulars (6:00), Joel Guzman, Joe Ely, George Devore (9:00)

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Radiostar

SPIDER HOUSE PATIO BAR DJ EE, DJ Mookie (9:30)

STARDUST CLUB Jason Arnold & the Stepsiders

STUBB'S Language Room, This Life Electric, Goldcure

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Li'l Steph & the Chromatics

III FORKS STEAKHOUSE Ken Slavin Jazz Trio

TRIPLE CROWN Rabb Rodriguez y los Killa Hawgs, Mark Jungers

See austinchronicle.com for complete listings.

Sat 2 4

311 CLUB Dewayne Davis, Joe Valentine (8:30)

ANTONE'S Early: Bob Schneider, Mitch Watkins; Later: DJ Chicken George, Grupo Fantasma (6:00)

AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET DOWNTOWN Sara Shansky (10:00am)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Altar Boyz

BABY ACAPULCO'S NO. 3 Nelson Saga & Arma del Alma (8:00)

BEERLAND West Memphis 3 Benefit

BLIND PIG PUB Joe Vega (10:00)

BOTTICELLI'S Nueva Cosa

'BOUT TIME DJ Element (9:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Geezinslaw Bros. w/ Sam & Son

THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/ Nicole

CAROUSEL LOUNGE ML Frank, Candi & the Strangers, Pataphysics

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Erik Hokkanen (6:30)

CLUB ONE 15 Hector Ward & the Big Time, Uncle Lucius, Sigmund Fraud

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Mike Flanigin's B-3 Trio (10:00); In the Club: Redd Volkaert (3:00), LZ Love, Mother Truckers (10:00)

COOL RIVER CAFE Lipservice

COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lesson w/ Cesar & Rhonda, DJ Alvaro (9:00)

COTTON CLUB The Debonaires

DALLAS Steven Franks

DOÑA EMILIA'S SOUTH AMERICAN BAR & GRILL Latin at Heart (7:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Lucky Strikes (8:00)

EGO'S Fishermen, Pete McPherson, Billy Dee

EL SOL Y LA LUNA Mary Welch y los Curanderos (7:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Red Young, Paul White Quartet (9:30)

ELYSIUM Haven w/ DJ Void, the Gothfather (10:30)

EMO'S Inside: Red Light Love Rules, Goodnight Goddess, Say Hello to the Angels, Firekills; Lounge: Dazzling King Solomon, the Carrots, Ripe, Strange Boys

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To sign up for a chance to win a pass to this screening, go to austinchronicle.com/contests by 4pm, Tuesday, November 27

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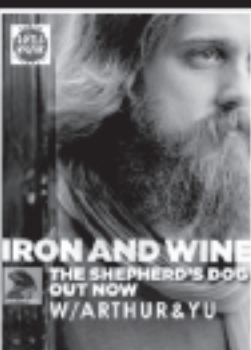
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SATURDAY NOVEMBER 24 / \$5

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JESSE MOORE 10:30
HUNDRED YEAR FLOOD 9:30
SHELLEY KING BAND 8:30
Marc Utter & Blackland 7:30
FOSCOE JONES 6:30
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 25 / \$5

WARREN HOOD
& THE HOODLUMS 9:30-12
MARSHALL FORD SWING BAND 8
DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY 6:30
MONDAY NOVEMBER 26 / \$5

PLANK 11:45
DUSTIN WELCH
& THE HOUSE BAND 10
BUKKA ALLEN 9
BECKHAM BROTHERS 8
JOSH HALVERSON 7
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 27 / \$5

ED JURDI 12
DAN DYER 10:45
SUZANNA CHOFFEL 9:30
GINA CHAVEZ 7
AUSTIN COLLINS 8:15
NATHAN HUBBLE
HAPPY HOUR 6-8PM / \$2 DOMESTICS \$3 WELLS TIL 8PM / NO COVER TIL 7:30
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 28 / \$5

THE Band of Heathens 9:30
OWEN TEMPLE 8
ELEVEN FINGERED CHARLIE 12:15
MIRANDA DODSON HAPPY HOUR 6-7:30
UPCOMING SHOWS
NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH THE BAND OF HEATHENS
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club listings ◀◀ **FROM SATURDAY**

FLAMINGO CANTINA Mau Mau Chaplains, Tribal Nation (9:00)
FREDDIE'S PLACE Billy Dee (6:00)
GIDDY UPS John Michael Rose
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Miss Leslie & Her Juke Jointers (9:00)
GRUENE HALL Gary Claxton, Erik Hokkanen (1:00), Rodney Hayden, Aaron Watson (9:00)
HANOVER'S Monte Montgomery
HEADHUNTERS Under the Gun, the Homicides, Head Panic, Sunglasses & Mushrooms
HILL'S CAFE David Lee Kaiser
HOLE IN THE WALL Scott H. Biram, Tom Vandenaovond
IRIE BEAN COFFEE BAR Amy Glen & Luke Denton (8:00)
JOVITA'S Sally Allen, Blues Mafia, South Austin Jug Band (6:30)
LA PALAPA Karaoke w/ Big Jim (8:00)
LAMBERTS Marshall Ford Swing Band (6:30), Best Love In Town, Disco Killahs (10:30)
LUCKY LOUNGE Wesley Lunsford (9:00)
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Maho, Flawless Escape (9:00)
MAGGIE MAE'S Rick Harvey's Blues Happy Hour (6:00)
MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL Ember, King Zero, Vallejo (9:30)
MOHAWK Arizona
MOMO'S Capital Area Food Bank Benefit w/ Foscoe Jones, Mark Utter & Blackland, Shelley King, Hundred Year Flood, Jesse Moore, Peacefield
NORTH BY NORTHWEST James Thomas
THE OAKS Burro Magic, Public Offenders, Self
PARAMOUNT THEATRE Kevin McKinney, Kelly Willis & Bruce Robison Holiday Show (8:00)
THE PARISH DJ Mel, Ghostface
PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Mary Cutrufello & the Havoline Supremes (8:00)
PLUSH Table Manners Crew (10:00)
RADISSON Kent Mayhew (5:30)
RED 7 Oh Johnny Girls, Hotrod Hillbillies, Johnny Hootrock
RED FEZ DJ Kurv

REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Jitterbug Vipers
RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)
RILEY'S TAVERN Li'l Bit & the Customatics
RINGSIDE AT SULLIVAN'S The Brew (8:00)
THE ROCK ROOM Austin T (9:30)
ROME0'S GEORGETOWN Kirk Hale (6:30)
ROOM 710 The Punkaroos, Unicorn Magic, Pocket FishRmen
RUTA MAYA Youth Poetry Slam (3:00), Seth Walker, Warren Hood (9:00)
SAXON PUB Joel Guzman, Joe Ely, Guy Forsyth (8:00)
SCOOT INN & BEER GARDEN Micah & the Mutations, Crapulence, Aliens
SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL The Crisis
SPEAKEASY Bustamoovalators (9:30)
STARDUST CLUB Johnny Tequila
STUBB'S Lee Simmons, Jon McLaughlin
TEXAS BAR & GRILL Bita Blue
III FORKS STEAKHOUSE Ken Slavin Jazz Trio
TRIPLE CROWN Every Other Fate, Exit the Sun, Lug
TROPHY'S The Easies
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE CIRCLE C RANCH Brunch w/ Buzz Guerra (11:00am)

Sun 25

THE ALLIGATOR GRILL Patrick Quinn
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Eddie Collins
B.B. ROVERS Open Mic w/ Missoula Slim, Terri Fann (7:00)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Irish Tune Session (8:00)
BLIND PIG PUB Joe Vega (10:00)
'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ Clayton Adams
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/ Brian
CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Sean Hopper Quartet (12:30)
CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Cienfuegos (12:30)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Mike Flanigin's B-3 Trio (10:00); In the Club: Heybale! (10:00)
COTTON CLUB Can't Hardly Playboyz (7:00)
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)
EGO'S Mallory Valentine, Outlaw Revival, Chris Gates, Robert Banta
ELEPHANT ROOM Brett Butler Trio (9:30)
ELYSIUM Regression: Retro Eighties w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice
EMO'S Idiot Pilot, the Number Twelve Looks Like You, Gorgeous With Alesana, Drop Dead
FREDDIE'S PLACE Steve Power (3:00)
FRIENDS Open Mic Blues Jam (8:00)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Dale Watson (4:00)
GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL Ted Hall's Blues Church/Jam
GREEN PASTURES Jacques Vilmain (11:00am)
GRUENE HALL Brock Zeman & Dan Walsh (noon), Ponty Bone & the Squeezetones (4:00)
THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE Austin Sketch Group (1:30)
HOLE IN THE WALL Shakemups, Superego All-Stars
JAVA LOUNGE AT AUSTIN JAVA Kinktet (11:00am), Tanya Winch (4:00)
JOVITA'S Josh Allen & the Whiskey Bros. (6:30)
LOCKER ROOM SPORTS BAR Ted Hall's Blues Church & Jam (8:30)
LUCKY LOUNGE Penni (10:00)
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Melting Social Project (9:00)
MANUEL'S Boomer Norman (11:30am)
MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL S.I.N.S. w/ DJ Tetsuo (9:30)
MOMO'S Daughters of the Confederacy, Greg Garing, Warren Hood & the Hoodlums, Marshall Ford Swing Band
MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB Strong Medicine (noon)
NUEVO LEON Mariachi Relampago (1:00)
NUNO'S ON SIXTH Ray McCarty, Rusty Trapps & the Blue Lites (8:00)
NUTTY BROWN CAFE Java Jazz (11:00am)

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Don Chani 12:06: The Addictions, Adrian &
the Sickness, Joker 12:07: Crew 54 CD
Release Party 12:08: Kank, Supahat &
Boca Abajo 12:12: Ronnie Davis & The
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team sleep
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club listings <<< FROM SUNDAY

THE OASIS The Brew
THE OFFICE LOUNGE Karaoke w/ Mrs. K
ONE 2 ONE BAR This Life Electric (10:00)
PARAMOUNT THEATRE The Australian Pink Floyd (8:00)
THE PARLOR Rabbit Fist
RACK DADDY'S Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)
RED 7 Early: Skare Tactic; Later: DGK, the Artillery, A Verse Unsung, Valeyra, Secret Lives of Freemasons
RED FEZ DJ Kurupt (10:00)
RILEY'S TAVERN Open Mic
ROMEO'S Rob Greenfield
ROOM 710 Eviscerated, Scattered Remains
RUTA MAYA Eliza Gilkyson, Seed at Zero, David Israel (6:30)
SAXON PUB The Resentments, Walter Tragert, Steven Will & the Salingers (7:00)
SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Billy D
SPEAKEASY DJ Abe the Assassin
STUBB'S Gospel Brunch w/ the New Soul Invaders (11:00am)
T.C.'S LOUNGE Jambo & the Old Dogs (8:30)
TEXAS BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Michelle
TRIPLE CROWN Open Mic w/ Pat Pankratz, Holly Aiken, Nate Hinds
TROPHY'S Azoustin
VICTORY GRILL Jeff Lofton Quartet (8:00)
THE WATER TANK Open Mic w/ Patrick

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Sunday Brunch w/ Buzz Guerra

Mon 26

ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Robyn Ludwick (3:30)
ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR & GRILLE ON SIXTH STREET Kim Deschamps (1:00)
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Sarah Elizabeth Campbell & the Banned (7:30)
AUSTIN MUSIC HALL HAAM Benefit, Open House w/ Carolyn Wonderland, Kacy Crowley, Nakia & His Southern Cousins, Bobbie Nelson, Del Castillo
BEAUTY BAR National Front, Glue, Hangar 18
BEERLAND Rock & Roll Karaoke w/ John Chapman
THE BELMONT Chadd Thomas & the Crazy Kings (6:30)
BLIND PIG PUB Chris Pennington (10:30)
'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ Clayton Adams
CEDAR STREET Highly Likely, John Pointer (6:00)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Mike & Rob Haedge (5:30)
CHEZ ZEE AMERICAN BISTRO Rich Demarco (6:30)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Son y No Son (10:00); In the Club: Paris 49 (6:30), Dale Watson & His Lone Stars (10:00)
DONN'S DEPOT Chris Gage
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)
EGO'S Wes Nickson, Open Stage w/ Robert Banta

ELEPHANT ROOM Three Jazz Collective, Michael Mordecai's Jazz Jam (6:00)
EMO'S The End, Three Inches of Blood, GWAR
EVANGELINE CAFE Charles Thibodeaux (6:30)
FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE T. Jarrod Bonta (8:00)
GIDDY UPS Open Blues Jam w/ JJ Slyde
GUERO'S TACO BAR Trio Indiano (6:30)
THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE Open Mic Poetry & Reading (7:00)
LA PALAPA Baby Dallas
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Robbie's Open Mic (9:00)
MOHAWK Ralph White, All in the Golden Afternoon, Alasdair Roberts, Charalambides
MOMO'S Josh Halverson, Beckham Bros., Bukka Allen, Dustin Welch, Plank
MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS John Wilson & Joley Flowers
NASTY'S DJ Mel, Jahmighty
NUNO'S ON SIXTH Ray McCarty, Rusty Trapps & the Blue Lites (10:30)
THE PARLOR The Winks, Context Clues
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Ru Coleman & Texas Boogie
RABBIT'S LOUNGE Blue Monday (8:00)
RADISSON Larissa Ness (5:30)
RED 7 Plu, Model U.N., Overview, Seafla
RED FEZ DJ Jeff Jupiter (10:00)
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Matt Wilson Trio (8:30)

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Sat 11.24

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Mon 11.26

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Wed 11.28

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UPCOMING SHOWS
11.29 Johnny Numb, Dual Exhaust, Bricks 4x4, 11.30 World Burns To Death, Desert Valley Vapors, 12.11 Superheavy, Gentles, Whorehouse

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Sat 11/24

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Johnny Hootrock, Oh Johnny Girls

Sun 11/25

Early Show (4pm-8pm):
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Late Show (9pm) inside:
Secret Lives of Freemasons
The Artillery, Vaylera, DeathGotKilled
A Verse Unsung

Outside:
Vespasian Sorry, Ayasoltec, Mala Suerte

Mon 11/26

Seaflea, Overview, PLU
Model United Nations

Thu 11/29

Black Cobra, Slough Feg
The Roller, The Flood

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22ND **THANKSGIVING NIGHT**
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su 25 **Futurama Nite**

mo 26 **Tyler's Birthday Party**
Karaoke w/ your host Tyler @9pm
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tu 27 **Comedy Trainwreck**
w/ Avi Hartman

we 28 **Bill Baird's Silent Sunset, The Little**
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th 29 **Daniel Francis Doyle,**
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THU 11/22 > HAPPY THANKSGIVING - CLOSED/Holiday Party-3 NFL Turkey Games
FRI 11/23 > ESE, GYPSY PISTOLERS (SLEAZE/GLAM From U.K.), STREET LIGHT SUSIE,
SONS OF NUNS, BRUH (H-Hour), UT VS. TEXAS A&M (Patio)
SAT 11/24 > SUNGLASSES & MUSHROOMS, HEAD PANIC, THE HOMICIDES, UNDER THE GUN
SUN 11/25 > HYNOTHERIPESTS, SUNDAY NFL FOOTBALL (Patio)
MON 11/26 > THE BELGRAVES, THE RAMIFICATIONS, MNFootballFree wings*
TUE 11/27 > VERMIOUS CANDIDS, HIGHER THAN WHY, REDLINE RIOT
WED 11/28 > SABBATH CROW, HIT BY CAR, INSTRUMENT OF KARMA

UPCOMING >>> THU 11/29 - NO PONIES SHOW, DIRTYBIRD, THE LITTLE MONTS • FRI 11/30 - THE LASH OUTS, WILSON (H-Hour)
SAT 12/1 - THE PARTYS OVER PRODUCTION PRESENTS THE COMRA SKULLS/RED SCARE RECORDS • SUN 12/2 - DIRTY PENNY, BUMMER MONSTER

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UPCOMING SHOWS
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12-47 KIRBY RULE NIGHT NO ONE EYED BOUL
12-48 SCOTT BIRDA, CHILI CHILI BLOOD
12-50 SPIN ALLEY, HIGHER THAN WHY, SHAKED
12-55 THE INCOMPATIBLE SLEEP PATTERNS CO RELEASE
12-59 NEW YEARS EVE WITH THE STRANGLERS

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Thursday Nov. 22 **CLOSED**
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Friday November 23 **SPECIAL EVENT!**
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Indie Clash & Retro Trash
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Saturday Nov. 24 **HAVEN**
goth, industrial, synthpop, & EURO DANCE
HAVEN WITH DJs VOID & THE GOTHFATHER

Sunday November 25 **REGRESSION**
RETRO 80's **RETRO 80's** RETRO 80's
REGRESSION WITH DJ PUMPKIN SPICE

Monday November 26 **CLOSED**
closed...still too full to move...

Tuesday November 27 **90's NIGHT**
SO LAST CENTURY... 90's Night
WITH DJs BOBA FETT & MINIMUS

Wednesday Nov. 28 **MID-WAVE**
UNDERGROUND retro & OLD SCHOOL goth
WITH DJs PUMPKIN SPICE & EDMINISTER

UPCOMING EVENTS
Thu. Nov. 29 • Live! The Holocaust Humanity,
Gabbar, Guymon Adams

Fri. Nov. 30 • Live! subNatural,
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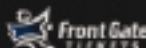
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club listings ◀ FROM MONDAY

THE ROCK ROOM Open Mic, Auditions w/ Brandon Raines (6:00)
ROMEO'S Lisa Clark
ROOM 710 Heart & Soul Sound System (8:00)
ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE Chip Sneed
RUTA MAYA D-Madness, Kalu James, Diasporic, Dawni, Matthew Robinson (7:00)
SAM'S TOWN POINT Nate Vancil (8:30)
SAXON PUB Uncle Lucius, Bob Schneider, Nathan Singleton's Sideshow Tragedy, Nathan Hubble (7:00)
SPEAKEASY Under the Stars w/ Jonathan Terrell
T.C.'S LOUNGE Little Elmore Reed (10:00)
III FORKS STEAKHOUSE Ken Slavin Jazz Trio
TRIPLE CROWN Gerry's Kids

Tue 27

311 CLUB Soul Kitchen, Station (9:30)
ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Billy Dee (3:30)
ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR & GRILLE ON SIXTH STREET Danny Santos (1:00)
ANTONE'S Blue Tuesday w/ Derek O'Brien, Malford Milligan (11:00)
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Texas Old Time Fiddlers Jam (7:30)
B.B. ROVERS Buster Gutbucket & Friends w/ Paula Held (7:30)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Open Mic (7:30)
BASTROP SENIOR CENTER The Kitchen Pickers (6:30)
THE BELMONT Dale Watson & His Lone Stars (7:00)
BOTTICELLI'S Izzy Cox
CAROUSEL LOUNGE George Kinney & the Cedar Creekers
CEDAR STREET 18 Karat, Ben Burgess (6:00)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Vela & Jordan Minor (5:30)
CLUB ONE 15 Mesach Jackson
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Ephraim Owens Experience (10:00); In the Club: Casper Rawls' Planet Casper w/ David Grissom, Warren Hood (6:30), Barfield, the Tyrant of Texas Funk (11:00)
DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)
EGO'S James Bullard, Billy Dee
EL MERCADO'S MUSIC LOUNGE Writers Who Rock Songwriters Night w/ Melissa Mullins (7:00)
ELEPHANT ROOM Stanley Smith (6:00), Brannen Temple (9:30)
ELYSIUM 90's Night w/ DJ Boba Fett, DJ Minimus
EVANGELINE CAFE Gene Taylor (6:00)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory (8:00)
FRIENDS Erin Jaimes & Her Bad Habits, Drew Tishnell (8:00)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Roots Day w/ the Horton Bros. (9:00)
GRAFFITI'S BAR & GRILL Open Stage w/ Cade Baccus
GRUENE HALL Jeff Plankenhorn (7:00)
GUERO'S TACO BAR Trio Indiano (6:30)
HABANA CALLE 6 Trey Lanshe (8:00)
HANOVER'S Kevin Havron, Jay Dirks (7:30)
HEADHUNTERS Red Line Riot, Higher Than Why, Vermicious Canids
THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE SingerSlashSongwriter Open Mic Night w/ Chase Holbrook (8:00)
HILL'S CAFE Songwriter Night w/ Bill Rice
IRIE BEAN COFFEE BAR Matt Maye (8:00)
JOVITA'S Mo Pair, the Love Band
LA PALAPA Weldon Henson
LA ZONA ROSA The Vanished, Silverchair
LAMBERTS Erik Hokkanen
LUCKY LOUNGE Mr. Brown, DJ Rapid Ric, Boombox (10:00)
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Josh Grider, Tongue-Tied Lightning (10:00)
MOHAWK Delta Spirit, Buttercup
MOMO'S Nathan Hubble, Gina Chavez, Austin Collins, Suzanna Choffel, Dan Dyer, Ed Jurdi
THE OFFICE LOUNGE Karaoke w/ Billy D.
PARDNERS Open Mic w/ the Michael Petty Band (7:30)
THE PARLOR Wino Vino, Javier Cruz
PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE The Southsiders w/ Ponty Bone, Danny Young, & Paul Skelton, Connie Hancock (7:00)
PLUSH Mentalnote
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Troubadillos
THE PUB Karaoke w/ Justin

RADISSON Murphy's Inlaws
RANCH 616 Lucas Hudgins & the First Cousins (8:00)
RED FEZ Twist Up w/ DJ Manny (10:00)
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Jon Blondell (7:00)
RILEY'S TAVERN Beverly Hensley
ROOM 710 Skeletons, Mic the Tiger, Chris McFarland
ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE OJ Laier
RUTA MAYA Poetry Open Mic, Music Open Mic (6:00)
SAM'S TOWN POINT Open Mic w/ Dewey Lyon & the Heatherns (9:00)
SAXON PUB BettySoo, MPTU, the Sultans
SCOOT INN & BEER GARDEN Hilary York, Aimee Bobruk (8:00)
SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Rae Rae
SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Dean Seltzer
TAVERN IN THE GRUENE Songwriters Open Mic w/ Jerry Martin & Sam Sanchez (8:00)
III FORKS STEAKHOUSE Ken Slavin Jazz Trio
TRIPLE CROWN Highly Likely, the Typist & the Tiger, Falcon Buddies, Thousand Foot Whale Claw
TROPHY'S Singer-Songwriter Showcase w/ Jason Weems, Bill Davis
THE WATER TANK Karaoke w/ RJ
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Will Dunlap (6:00)
Z'TEJAS Kris Kimura (6:00)

Wed 28

219 WEST Breezy (7:00)
311 CLUB Brandon Gist (9:30)
ABIA: EARL CAMPBELL SPORTS BAR Craig Toungeate (3:30)
ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Darcie Deaville (3:30)
APPLEBEE'S NEIGHBORHOOD BAR & GRILL Marty Linville
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Shelley King, Carolyn Wonderland (7:30)
AUSTIN'S PIZZA Natalie Zoe Jazz Trio (8:00)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Hosea Hargrove & the Roadrunners
BABY ACAPULCO'S NO. 5 Singer-Songwriter Open Mic w/ Jimi Lee
BEERLAND Brazos, Model U.N., Little Gentlemen, Bill Baird & Silent Sunset
THE BELMONT Mr. Fabulous & Casino Royale (7:00)
BOTTICELLI'S Sarah Sharp



THU 11/22 HAPPY THANKSGIVING OPEN AT 5PM
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THU	22	closed
FRI	23	TBA T.U.B. texas unlimited band
SAT	24	radiostar
SUN	25	suede
MON	26	HIGHLY LIKELY JACK ROWE COMBO
TUE	27	AMANDA PEARCY RACHAEL LOY
WED	28	TRENT & DAVE SPAZMATICS



208 W. 4th St. Warehouse District 512.495.9669

club listings ◀◀ FROM WEDNESDAY

BROKEN SPOKE Tracie Lynn
CAROUSEL LOUNGE New Sensational Brownies
CEDAR STREET Trent & Dave, Spazmatics (6:00)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Missoula Slim (5:30), Kent Finlay's Songwriters Circle (9:00)
CHEZ ZEE AMERICAN BISTRO Jacinta (7:00)
CLUB 973 Karaoke w/ the Bigg Sho (8:30)
CLUB DE VILLE Psychotropic w/ DJ Scorpio, DJ Whiplash
CLUB ONE 15 Green Mountain Grass
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Trube Farrell & Sniz (10:00); In the Club: Shotgun Party, (6:30)
CREEKSIDE LOUNGE Kill the DJ, Smash-Ups, Robot, DJ Alib, Ghattotech w/ DJ Orion (9:30)
CUBA LIBRE Havana Nights w/ the Cadaques (8:00)
DALLAS Greg Caldwell
DONN'S DEPOT Frank & the Station Masters
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:00)
EGO'S Ego's Trip, Julieann Banks, Austin Poetry Slam
ELEPHANT ROOM Jazz Pharoahs (6:00), Acoustic Mayhem (9:30)
ELYSIUM Mid Wave w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice
EMO'S Lounge: the Always Already, the Laughing, the Black & White Years
EVANGELINE CAFE Julieann Banks (7:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Dr. Dubbist, Beligerous (9:00)
FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE Erin Ivey, Andrew Duplantis, Fred Ramirez (8:00)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Hand Me Down, Bruce James (8:00)
GIDDY UPS Jodi Adair, Ted Hall
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Jack & the Jilted (9:00)
GRAFFITI'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Ian of Echosystemz (8:00)
GRUENE HALL Zach Walther & the Cronkites (7:00)
HANOVER'S Open Mic w/ Armadillo Action Figures
HEADHUNTERS Instrument of Karma, Hit by a Car, Sabbath Crow
HILL'S CAFE Brent Allen CD Release (7:00)
HOLE IN THE WALL Jude Ross, Leatherbag, Gary Newcomb, Lonesome Heroes
JAVA LOUNGE AT AUSTIN JAVA Eric Christopher (8:00)
LA PALAPA Senior Gato
LAMBERTS Jitterbug Vipers (6:30)
LAS PALOMAS Javier Chaparro, Rick McRae, Terry Hale, Art Kidd (6:30)
LUCKY LOUNGE Meridian West (10:00)
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Electric Mayhem (9:00)
MAGGIE MAE'S Patrick Fleming (10:00)
MEAN-EYED CAT The Moonhangers (7:30)
MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL Pride & Joy (8:00)

MOHAWK The Balconey, Toko-Ri Get High, Kill Me Tomorrow
MULLIGAN'S Karaoke w/ Stormy (9:00)
THE OAKS Cade Callahan's East Side Hayride (7:00)
PARDNERS Kara
THE PARLOR Camp X-Ray, Good Times Crisis Band
PARMER LANE TAVERN Pete Benz (9:00)
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Open Mic w/ Fond Kiser
THE PUB Jam Session w/ Frank
RADISSON The Newz
REAL'S PIZZA & CAFE "Frankly" Singing w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)
RED FEZ Atash (10:00)
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Marc Devine Quartet w/ Denia Ridley (8:30)
RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)
RILEY'S TAVERN Mark Jungers
ROADHOUSE Karaoke w/ Billy D.
THE ROCK ROOM Brandon Raines, Carson Alexander (8:30)
ROOM 710 Boltz, A Secular End, Cycle of Violence, Slezus Fist
ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE Glenn Collins Open Mic
RUTA MAYA Salsa Lessons, Cienfuegos (7:30)
SAXON PUB Sunny Sweeney (6:00), Paula Nelson, Monte Montgomery, Meagan Tubb (8:00)
SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL LC Rocks
SHOAL CREEK SALOON Eve Monsees & the Exiles (7:30)
SPEAKEASY Salsa Lessons, O Positivo (9:00)

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FRIDAY, NOV 23

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SATURDAY, NOV 24

THE BUSTA MOOVALATORS 9:30PM
DJ HOLLAND ON TERRACE 59

SUNDAY, NOV 25

S.I.N. WITH DJ ABE ON TERRACE 59

MONDAY, NOV 26

S.I.N. WITH JONATHAN TERRELL ON TERRACE 59

TUESDAY, NOV 27

BLACK TOOTH TUESDAYS

WEDNESDAY, NOV 28

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club listings ◀◀ FROM WEDNESDAY

STUBB'S The Valentines, the Wildbirds

T.C.'S LOUNGE Fly Jack (10:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Erickson, King Slim Blues

VICTORY GRILL The Blues Specialists

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Ptarmigan (7:00)

Y BAR & GRILL Singer-Songwriter Night (6:30)

Z'TEJAS Will Sexton, Stephen Doster, Bill Carter (6:00)

Thu 29

219 WEST Acoustic Jungle (8:00)

311 CLUB Joe Valentine (8:30)

ABIA: EARL CAMPBELL SPORTS BAR Tucker Livingston (3:30)

ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Bill Carter Trio (3:30)

ANTONE'S Spoiled Royals, Muchos Backflips!, Major Major

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Trent Turner

BABY ACAPULCO'S NO. 3 Karaoke w/ Edie Castillo (7:00)

BATES RECITAL HALL Miró Quartet (8:00)

BEAUTY BAR DJ Honeycomb, Jets Under Fire, Pale, People Noise

BEERLAND Expensive Shit, Beta Valentine, Radioland Murders, Daniel Francis Doyle

THE BELMONT Dysfunkshun Junkshun (8:00)

BENNIGAN'S Andy Fiegall (7:00)

BOTTICELLI'S Shawn Nelson & the Ramblers

BROKEN SPOKE Jesse Dayton

THE BROWN BAR DJ gmau

CACTUS CAFE Amelia K. Spicer, John Gorka (8:30)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Lost Pines, Crystal Jukebox

CEDAR STREET Kent Mayhew, Radiostar (6:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Rick Turcotte (5:30)

CLUB DE VILLE Noise Revival Orchestra, DJ Jester the Filipino Fist, Shane Watt, Krista L.L. Muir

CLUB ONE 15 Topaz, La Tampiquena (6:00), Brent Allen (10:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Paris 49 (10:00); In the Club: Elana James (6:30), the Ugly Beats, the Jungle Rockers, Amplified Heat (10:00)

COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)

COTTON CLUB Texas All-Stars (8:30)

DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)

EGO'S Billy Dee, 2 Hoots & a Holler

ELEPHANT ROOM Mitch Watkins Quartet (9:30)

ELYSIUM Gabhar, Guymon Adams, Holocaust Humanity

EMO'S Outside: We Are the Fury, Willowz, Electric Six; Lounge: Yadira Brown, Underwater Orchestra, LAX, Mars Wars

EVANGELINE CAFE Craig Toungate (7:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA JoJo Serrato's Bad Apples (10:00)

FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE Matt the Electrician & Southpaw Jones (8:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Gretchen Phillips, Lost & Nameless Orchestra (8:00)

GIDDY UPS Open Mic w/ Roy & Ted (8:30)

GRUENE HALL Colin Gilmore (7:00)

HANOVER'S Karaoke w/ Dan the Man

HEADHUNTERS Little Morts, Dertybird, No Show Ponies

HOLE IN THE WALL James Bullard, Novadrone (10:00)

HOMER'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Brian

JOVITA'S Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)

LA PALAPA Brewer Nation

LAMBERTS Glover Tango (6:30), Ryan Vaughan & Sahara Smith, Miranda Dodson (10:30)

THE LOADING DOCK Breezy

LOVEJOYS The Nortons

LUCKY LOUNGE Ian McLagan & the Bump Band (6:00), Anagen (10:00)

LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Falcon Buddies, Fever Dreams, the Soldier Thread (9:00)

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Nathan Hubble, Michael Clay (7:00)

MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL Bernie Calcote (10:30)

MOHAWK Buffalo Breath, Brazos, Vampire Weekend

MOMO'S Ryan Carter, Patrice Pike, Will Evans Project, Jeremy Nail, Redefining the Moment

THE OAKS Sharon & Lew Andre Mathews w/ John Downey & Steve Kavalier

ONE 2 ONE BAR AJ Vallejo & Zach Baker Jam Session

THE PARISH Cass McCombs, Jose Gonzalez

THE PARLOR Correction Brothers, Low Red Land

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Jim Stringer & the AM Band (8:00)

RADISSON Haydn Vitera

RANCH 616 Lucas Hudgins & the First Cousins (8:00)

RED 7 The Flood, the Roller, Slough Fly, Black Cobra

RED EYED FLY L.A. Guns

RED FEZ Twilight Broadcast, Weekend Warm-Up (8:30)

REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Dale Watson (7:00)

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Flamin' Hellcats

THE ROCK ROOM Karaoke w/ DJ Trip

ROMEO'S GEORGETOWN Eddy Maine

ROOM 710 Moondog, Bricks ATX, Dual Exhaust, Johnny Vomit

SAXON PUB The Fabs, Carolyn Wonderland, George Devore (8:00)

SHAKESPEARE'S PUB Brent Allen (10:00)

SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Billy D.

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Jordan Price, Jordan Price

STUBB'S Matt the Electrician, Andy Davis

T.C.'S LOUNGE Michael Holt & the Trophy 500's (10:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Phil Stevens, Green Mountain Grass

TROPHY'S Alexander's Dark Band, Jack Stafford Foundation, the Fire Marshals of Bethlehem, Daylight Titans

VICTORY GRILL Word/Jazz Low Stars (8:00)

WHISKY BAR Jeff Parker

Z'TEJAS Señor Gato (6:00)



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THURSDAY
Twilight Broadcast 8:30-10:30
The Weekend Warm-Up 10:30-2:00

FRIDAY
DJ In/Verse 10:00-2:00

SATURDAY
DJ Kurv 10:00-2:00

SUNDAY
DJ Kurupt 10:00-2:00

MONDAY
DJ Jeff Jupiter 10:00-2:00

TUESDAY
Twist Up w/DJ Manny 10:00-2:00

WEDNESDAY
Atash 8:00-10:00
DJ Baby G & Jah Almighty 10:00-2:00

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Fr 23	Rabb Rodriguez y los Killa' Hogs 6pm Mark Jungers 9pm
Sa 24	LUG, Distempered, Soul Strung 10pm
Su 25	Open Mic w/ Pat, Holly & Nate 8pm
Mo 26	Gerry's Kids 6pm Smarty Pants - Trivia Contest 8pm
Tu 27	Highly Likely 6pm Thousand Foot Whale Claw, Falcon Buddies, The Typist & The Tiger 9pm
We 28	Erickson 6pm King Slim Blues 9pm
Th 29	Phil Stevens 6pm Green Mountain Grass 9pm
Fr 30	Shotgun Party 6pm Three Leaf, Muchos Backflips, Mira Look 9pm
Sa 1	Word Association (CD release), Heroes, EVAK-1 10pm FREE SHOW!!!

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Friday, November 23

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SATURDAY, NOV 24
SCOTT H. BIRAM 11:30P
TOM VANDEN AVOND 10P

SUNDAY, NOV 25
SUPER EGO 11:30P
ALL-STARS 10P
SHAKEMUPS 10P

MONDAY, NOV 26
THE HUNNIES 11:30P
THE CANOPY 10P
THE SPIRIT OF SPACE 9:30P

WEDNESDAY, NOV 21
LONESOME HEROES 12:30A
GARY NEWCOMB TRIO 11:30P
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THU, NOV 22 **COWBOYS GAME 2PM**
THANKSGIVING DINNER! DURING HALFTIME

FRI, NOV 23 **DYSFUNKSHUN JUNKSHUN 9:30PM**

SAT, NOV 24 **TEXAS HOLD 'EM POKER 6:30 & 9:30PM NO ENTRY FEE \$200 CASH PRIZE**
EMBER 9PM
KING ZERO 10PM
VALLEJO 11:30PM

SERVICE INDUSTRY SUNDAYS
DJ TETSUO \$3 YOU CALL IT

MON, NOV 26 **TEXAS HOLD 'EM POKER 6:30 & 9:30PM NO ENTRY FEE \$200 CASH PRIZE**

WED, NOV 28 **PRIDE & JOY 8PM**

THU, NOV 29 **BERNIE CALLOTE BAND 10:30PM**

FRI, NOV 30 **LC ROCKS 10PM**

SAT, DEC 1 **TEXAS HOLD 'EM POKER 6:30 & 9:30PM NO ENTRY FEE \$200 CASH PRIZE**
THE RED WAVE 10PM
CORD 11PM

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Wednesday, November 28

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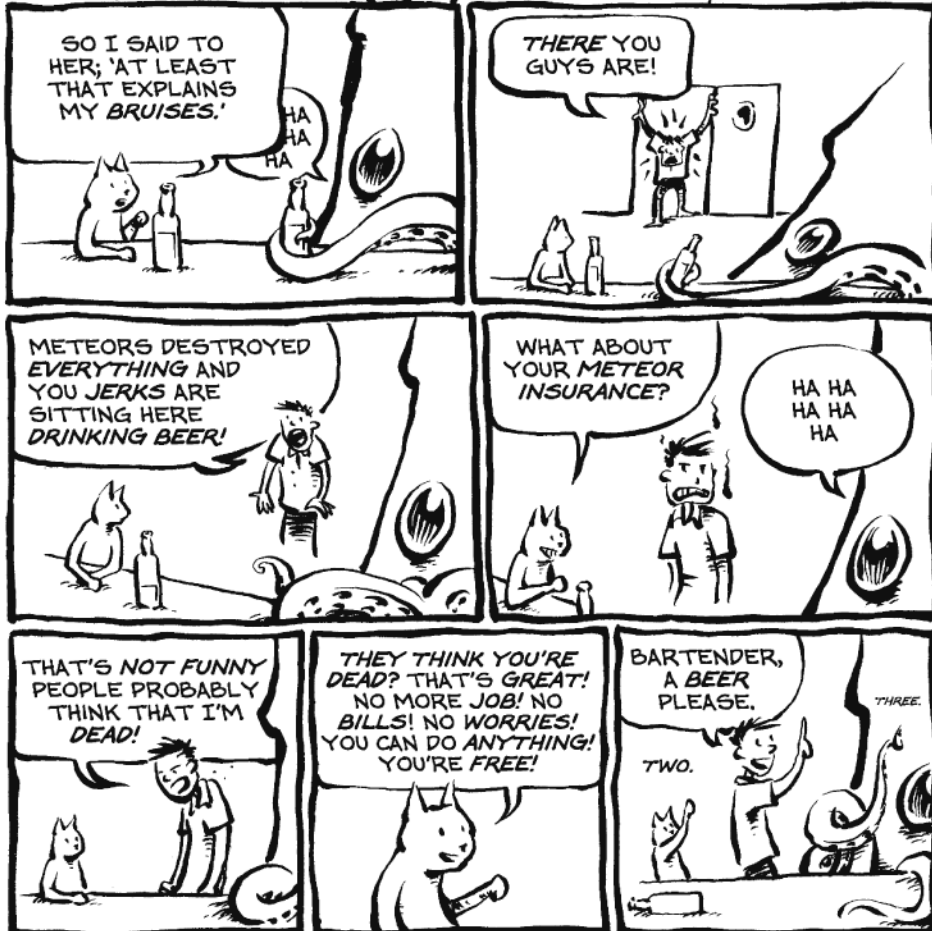
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How to Be Happy (11 OF 8) by Shannon Wheeler



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In Aicuna, a small town in Argentina, albinism is almost 200 times more likely to occur than anywhere else in the world. Isolation and inbreeding – but not incest, the townspeople insist, despite persistent rumors – are the likely causes.

The first Beatle to visit America was George Harrison in September 1963. At the time, the Beatles were fairly unknown, and George was visiting his sister, Louise, in Benton, Ill. During his stay, he played with a band called the Four Vests in nearby Eldorado. The crowd didn't know who he was, but he soon blew them away.

Hydrochloric acid is used to break down bones from cattle industry into gelatin that is used as film emulsion, capsules for medicine, golf balls, and food (ice cream, Jell-O).

The above is information that Mr. Smarty Pants read in a book, a magazine, or the newspaper; heard on the radio; saw on television; or overheard at a party. Got facts? Write to Mr. Smarty Pants at the Chronicle, or e-mail mrpants@austinchronicle.com.

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HEALTH ATTENDANT Seeking reliable, energetic, cheerful individual. Full Time week-days Mon-Fri, 7am-4pm. Home Health Attendant, experience preferred but will train. \$12hr. Central West Austin. Call Alison for interview. No calls after 6pm please. 512-371-3036.

LINE COOK Ringers Sports Lounge is looking for experienced line cooks. Apply at 415 Colorado after 4pm. 495-1558 ask for JR

MYSTERY SHOPPERS - Get paid to shop! Retail/Dining establishments need undercover clients to judge quality/customer service. Earn up to \$150 a day. Call 800-901-9370. (AAN CAN)

OUTDOOR YOUTH COUNSELOR Do you love the outdoors and helping troubled teens? Immediate openings at Eckerd outdoor therapeutic programs in NC, TN, GA, FL, VT, NH and RI. Year-round residential position, free room & board, competitive salary/benefits. Info and apply online: http://www.eckerdouth.org. Or fax resume to Career Advisor/AN, 727-442-5911. EOE/DFWP (AAN CAN)

PART TIME



Children are our future.

Be a positive role model working with elementary age kids in the afternoons. Work hours 2:15-6:30 p.m. M-F. Starting pay \$9.00-\$9.50/hr. EOE. Sites at 64 elementary schools. Spanish speakers needed. Apply at
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135 HOSPITALITY



THEATER MANAGER

Alamo Drafthouse Cinema

Have you ever wanted to work for a local, friendly, & respectable business?

We are looking to add to our team of Bad Ass Theater Managers!

General Job responsibilities include but are not limited to:

Responsible for managing all aspects of the restaurant/theater, including the selection, development and performance management of restaurant/theater employees, optimizing profits and increasing sales. Manages scheduled shifts ensuring guest satisfaction. Manages all operational issues ensuring Alamo's standards of quality and service are met. If interested in this position, please send resume to constance@originalalamo.com

Alamo Drafthouse Cinema was named "Best Theater in Austin" 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006. EOE



SUPPORT STAFF

Alamo Drafthouse Cinema is now hiring for FT Support Staff for Village and S. Lamar locations.

Ever wanted to work for a local, friendly, & respectable business? We are currently looking to add to our team of badass employees! Line Cooks, Expos, and Bussers with exp. needed. PM availability/flexible schedule a must!

Submit applications for ALL locations to The Alamo Drafthouse at the Ritz, 3012 East 6th St. M-Th after 4pm. Applicants must be 18+ to apply.

Alamo Drafthouse Cinema was named "Best Theater in Austin" 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007. EOE

ALL POSITIONS

Current Full and Part Time Positions available at Barton Creek Resort & Spa

Apply in person Monday-Friday 8:30-5PM, 8212 Barton Club Drive, Austin, Texas 78735. Email resumes to jobs@bartoncreek.com or fax your information to 512-329-4014. Website: <http://www.bartoncreek.com> Barton Creek offers a complete benefits package & competitive wages. EOE

WEBSITE Check out more great ads online! austinchronicle.com/classifieds

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Night Receptionist for Downtown Private Fine Dining Club - Mon-Sat 4pm to close. Ideal for student - some experience necessary. Email resume to accounting@austinclub.com

SERVER Immediate waitstaff openings for Mama Fu's Lakeline, Southpark Meadows & The Triangle (opening Dec 15). Diner servers needed, no tip-out & no experience necessary! Applications available at Lakeline & Southpark Meadows.

SERVER/HOST

Hiring servers and hosts at the Hula Hut. Apply in person Mon-Thurs. between 2-4.

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Volunteers earn perks to attend SXSW
Sign up now at www.sxsw.com/volunteer and attend the 2008 Volunteer Call. Email vol@sxsw.com for more info.

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Sunday, January 20th
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Austin Grand Ballroom, 6th Floor
3:30-5:30pm

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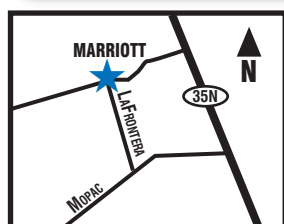
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1779 Wells Branch Pkwy

WAITSTAFF



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ALL Advanced Micro Devices is recruiting for the following positions in Austin, TX:

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Development. Engineer (T28515); Prod. Development Engineer 2 (T28504); Program Manager (T28610); Quality Assurance Analyst 2 (T28615); Software Development Engineer 2 (T28620); Software Engineer (T28485); Software Engineer 2 (T28518); Solutions Marketing Manager (T28611); Sr. CAD Design Engineer (T28519); Sr. Design Engineer (T26264); Sr. Device Tech Engineer (T28603); Sr. Financial Analyst (T28618); Sr. MTS Product Development Engineer (T28619); Sr. Packaging Engineer (T28609); Sr. Process Development Engineer (T28602); Sr. Product Development Engineer (T28469); Sr. Program Management Analyst (T28614); Sr. Program Manager (T28613); Sr. Software Engineer (T28605); Sr. Technology & Integration Engineer (T28603); System Design Engineer 2 (T28608); Systems Development Engineer (T28600); Systems Development Engineer 2 (T28601); System Software Development Engineer 2 (T28601)

Submit resumes referencing the appropriate job title and code to AMD, M/S 672, 5204 E. Ben White Blvd., Austin, TX 78741. AMD is an EOE.

CONTROL ENGINEER
Responsible for achieving nanometer level measurement and control accuracy with imprint lithography. Send resume to Molecular Imprints Inc., Attn: Jerry DeVreugd, 1807 W. Braker Ln, Bldg C-100, Austin, TX 78758.

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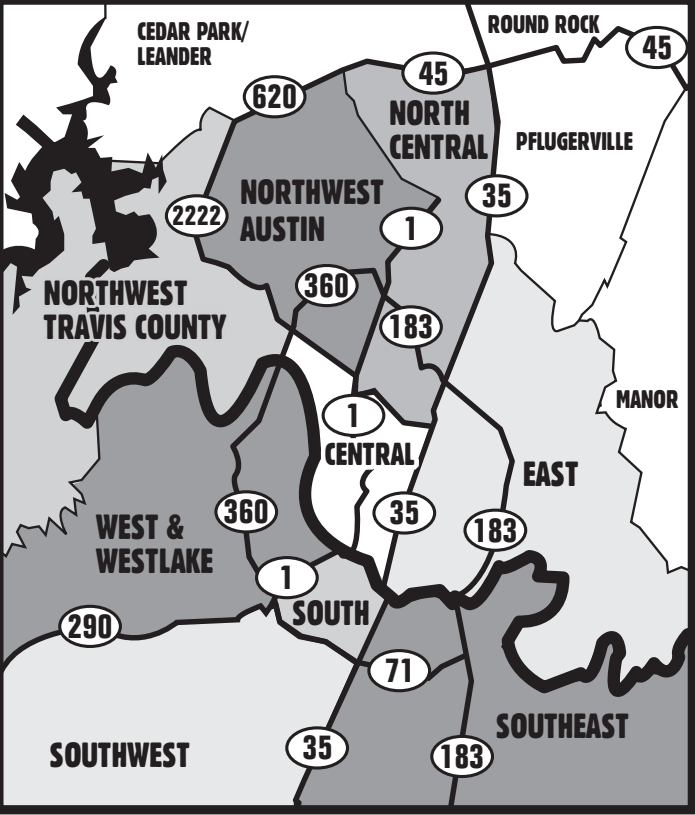
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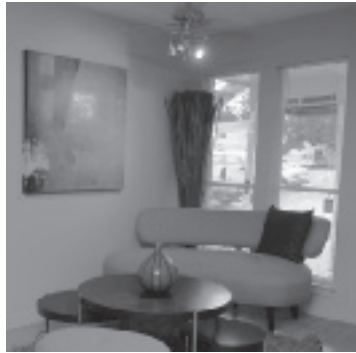
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CENTRAL 78704 2 Living, screen porch; private yard, gardens, trees. 2710 Stacy Ln, Avail Jan 1, Pets-ask, 394-9494

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date of publication of this citation, at the County Court-house in Travis, County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, this 2nd day of November, 2007.
DANA DEBEAUVOIR

County Clerk, Travis County, Texas
P.O. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714

By Deputy: /s/ Monica Limon

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS
County of Harris
To: **ROBERT BRAIN STEGGE**

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to be and appear before the 201ST Judicial District Court of Harris County, Texas in the Court-house in the city of Houston, Texas at or before 10:00 o'clock A.M. Monday, the 31ST day of **DECEMBER 2007**, being the Monday next after the expiration date of forty-two days after this citation is issued, and you are hereby commanded and required then and there to appear and file written answer to the: **PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION, AFFIDAVIT FOR CITATION BY PUBLICATION.**

Lot 10282, Bar-K Ranches, Plat 10, Plat No. 63/25, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in Volume 7179, Page 1010 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **\$4,244.35** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 29th day of October, 2007.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

Notice of hereof shall be given by publishing this Citation once a week for four consecutive weeks previous to the 17TH day of **DECEMBER 2007** in some newspaper published in the County of **HARRIS**, if there be a newspaper published therein, but if not, then the nearest county where a newspaper is published, and this Citation shall be returned on the 17TH day of **DECEMBER, 2007** which is forty two days after the date it is issued, and the first publication shall be at least twenty-eight days before said return day.

HEREIN FAIL NOT, but have before said court on said return day this Writ with your return thereon, showing how you have executed same

WITNESS: CHARLES BACARRISSE, District Clerk, Harris County Texas

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF SAID COURT at Houston, Texas this 5TH day of **NOVEMBER, 2007.**

Newspaper: **AUSTIN CHRONICLE**
Issued at the request of **JOHN A CARWILE**
Address: 15311 VANTAGE PKRWY WEST STE 307 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77032

THERESA CHANG, District Clerk
Harris County, Texas
201 CAROLINE, Houston, Texas 77002
P.O. Box 4651, Houston, Texas 77210

By: /s/ DEPUTY: **TRACEY MITCHELL**

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS
CAUSE NO: D-1-FM-90-491351 To: ROY PAUL MENI and to all who it may concern, Respondent(s); GREETINGS: YOU HAVE BEEN

SUED. YOU may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable District Court, 353RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, Travis County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County in Austin, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after expiration of twenty days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the PETITION TO MODIFY PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP TRAVIS COUNTY STANDING ORDER of DARRELL BERNARD MOKRY Petitioner(s), filed in said court on NOVEMBER 2, 2007, against ROY PAUL MENI Respondent(s), and said suit being number D-1-FM-90-491351; the docket of said Court, and entitled "IN THE INTEREST OF ELIZABETH KASEY JAMES, A CHILD", the nature of which suit is a request PETITION TO MODIFY PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the CHILD'S interest which will be binding on you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the CHILD'S adoption.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, November 02, 2007.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA

Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Courthouse
1000 Guadalupe,
P.O. Box 679003 (78767)
Austin, Texas 78701

/s/ MCGARY ASHANTI, Deputy

REQUESTED BY:
BRIAN BERNARD
1203 BAYLOR ST
AUSTIN, TX 78703
BUSINESS PHONE: (512) 478-5291
FAX: (512) 478-9822

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF WILLIAMSON

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF MURALI M. PADAKI, DECEASED, Cause No. 07-0594-CP4 in County Court at Law No. 4 of Williamson County, Texas.

CHANDRIKA PADAKI, applicant, in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 15TH day of November, 2007, an APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP AND FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT AND ORDER OF NO ADMINISTRATION of the said estate and requests that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said MURALI M. PADAKI, DECEASED, and their respective shares and interest in such estate.

Said application will be heard at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse Annex in Georgetown, Williamson County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Georgetown, Texas, this 15th day of November, 2007.

NANCY E. RISTER, County Clerk, Williamson County, Texas

by /s/ Dianne M Flores Deputy

CONTRACTOR'S NOTICE
OF CONSTRUCTION Notice

is hereby given that sealed bids for the construction of **BARTON CREEK BLVD. & TRAVIS CO. RD. IMPROVEMENTS (IFB No. B080027-LP)**, include roadway realignment, reconstruction and widening, in Precinct 3 in Travis County, will be received by the Travis County Purchasing Agent at the Travis County Administration Building, 314 West 11th Street, 4th Floor, Suite 400, until 2 p.m., December 12, 2007, then publicly opened and read in the Travis County Administration Building, 314 West 11th Street, 4th Floor Conference Room, Suite 400, Austin, Texas. The "Date-Time" stamp clock located at the front counter of the Travis County Purchasing Office will serve as the official clock for the purpose of verifying the time of receipt of bids.

All bids shall be addressed to Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, and shall be marked "Sealed Bid BARTON CREEK BLVD. & TRAVIS COOK RD. IMPROVEMENTS (IFB No. B080027-LP)." If the bid is to be mailed, the mailing address is as follows: Travis County Purchasing Agent, 314 West 11th Street, Suite 400, Austin, Texas 78701. An original bid and two copies of the bid shall be submitted. Each bid shall be accompanied by a bid bond or a certified or cashier's check, payable to "Travis County," in an amount not less than five (5%) percent of the total bid. The Travis County Commissioners Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

As required by Chapter 2253 of the Texas Government Code, a payment bond is required in the amount of the contract if the contract exceeds \$25,000.00, and a performance bond is required in the amount of the contract if the contract exceeds \$100,000.00 for contracts for the construction, alteration, or repair of any public building, or the prosecution or completion of any public work.

Attention is directed to the INSTRUCTION TO BIDDERS to insure compliance with the requirements of Chapter 2258 of the Texas Government Code (Prevailing Wage Rates) and Chapter 605 of the Texas Government Code (Hours of Labor).

Plans, specifications, and detailed bid forms are available at the Travis County Purchasing Office, Travis County Administration Building, 314 West 11th Street, 4th Floor, Room 400.

Bidders may obtain a complete set of the bidding documents after posting a \$25.00 deposit in the form of a cashier's check, money order, or company check payable to "Travis County." This deposit will be refundable to bidders who return all bidding documents in USABLE CONDITION within twenty one days after Bid Opening.

All bids must comply with specifications regarding pricing. Bidders should provide bid item amounts totaling to a total contract price.

An optional pre-bid conference will be held for this project on November 29, 2007 at 10 a.m. at the Travis County Administration Building, 314 West 11th Street, 4th Floor, Suite 400, Austin, Texas 78701.

Final payment for the above construction project will be paid for by check upon completion and acceptance of the work by the TNR Executive Manager.

CYD GRIMES
TRAVIS COUNTY PURCHASING AGENT

D-1-GV-06-001173
CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE
REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 201st District Court of Travis County, on the 22nd day of October, 2007 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-06-001173, wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin, Travis County and Travis County Healthcare District are plaintiffs, and Forty Investment Properties, if active and if inactive, the unknown owners, officers, agents and shareholders of Forty Investment Properties and City of Austin (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **\$5,233.08** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 345th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on September 12, 2007.

I, on the 25th day of October, 2007, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 4th day of December, 2007, at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

tration Systems, Inc. a nominee for Finance America, LLC (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **\$16,080.82** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 201st District Court of Travis County, Texas, on December 12, 2006.

I, on the 25th day of October, 2007, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 4th day of December, 2007, at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 46, Block D, Silverstone, Phase 2, Section 2, Plat No. 84/147B as described in document number 2002180988, document number 2003224074, document number 2004100159 and document number 2004235945 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **\$16,080.82** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 29th day of October, 2007.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

D-1-GV-06-001221
CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 345th District Court of Travis County, on the 22nd day of October, 2007 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-06-001221, wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin, Travis County and Travis County Healthcare District are plaintiffs, and Forty Investment Properties, if active and if inactive, the unknown owners, officers, agents and shareholders of Forty Investment Properties and City of Austin (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **\$5,233.08** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 345th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on September 12, 2007.

I, on the 25th day of October, 2007, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 4th day of December, 2007, at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 19, Block 2, D.C. Moore Addition, Plat No. 5/37 as described in document number 2004034156 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **\$5,233.08** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 29th day of October, 2007.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY
ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

D-1-GV-07-000688
CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 250TH District Court of Travis County, on the 22nd day of October, 2007 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-07-000688, wherein City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista Independent School District, Lago Vista Independent School District-County Education District, Travis County, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 and Travis County Hospital District nka Travis County Healthcare District are plaintiffs, and Milan K. Dutta, Chino Dutta and Travis County, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1, City of Lago Vista and County Education District are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **\$7,060.00** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 250TH District Court of Travis County, Texas, on August 24, 2007.

I, on the 25th day of October, 2007, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 4th day of December, 2007, at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 29030, Highland Lake Estates, Section 29, Plat No. 78/33, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in Volume 7237, Page 2111 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **\$7,060.00** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 29th day of October, 2007.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY
ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

D-1-GV-07-000776
CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of

the 201ST District Court of Travis County, on the 22nd day of October, 2007 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-07-000776, wherein City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista Independent School District, Lago Vista Independent School District County Education District, Travis County, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 and Travis County Hospital District nka Travis County Healthcare District are plaintiffs, and Urban Peters, Paula Peters are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **\$8,350.20** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 201ST District Court of Travis County, Texas, on September 25, 2007.

I, on the 25th day of October, 2007, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 4th day of December, 2007, at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 24033, Highland Lake Estates, Section 24, Plat No. 79/179, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in Volume 7694, Page 624 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **\$8,350.20** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 29th day of October, 2007.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

GV-200159
CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 345th District Court of Travis County, on the 22nd day of October, 2007 in a certain cause numbered GV-200159, wherein Travis County, City of Austin, Austin Independent School District, Austin Community College and Travis County Healthcare District are plaintiffs, and Frances Gutierrez, Virginia Hernandez, Kassandra Ramirez, Shannon Soledad Ramirez, Benita Ramirez, Lupita Gonzales, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Frances Gutierrez, Virginia Hernandez, Kassandra Ramirez, Shannon Soledad Ramirez, Benita Ramirez, Lupita Gonzales, Thomas Hernandez, Edward Hernandez, Carol Hernandez, Raymond Hernandez, Johnny Hernandez, Stella Hernandez, Alexis Gonzalez and Urban Renewal Agency of the City of Austin (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **\$14,579.37** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 345th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on August 31, 2007.

I, on the 25th day of October, 2007, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 4th day of December, 2007, at 10:00 o'clock, A.M.,

at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 3, Block 2 Chernosky Subdivision No. 11, Plat No. 4/219 as described in Volume 3185, Page 1567 and Probate Cause No. 70,125 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **\$14,579.37** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 29th day of October, 2007.
BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY
ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE

MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

GV-202574

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 201st District Court of Travis County, on the 22nd day of October, 2007 in a certain cause numbered GV-202574, wherein Austin Community College, Travis County, Austin Independent School District, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 12 and Travis County Hospital District are plaintiffs, and Martiniano Rangel, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Martiniano Rangel, Olivia Segura, Pacifica-Houston, Inc. (In Rem Only), City of Austin (In Rem Only) and United States of America (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **\$19,026.80** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 201st

District Court of Travis County, Texas, on April 4, 2006.

I, on the 25th day of October, 2007, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 4th day of December, 2007, at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 16, Block C, North Point, Phase 1, Section 1, Plat No. 86/21B as described in document number 2003148280 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **\$19,026.80** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 29th day of October, 2007.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY
ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WAR-

RANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

GV-203051

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 53RD District Court of Travis County, on the 22nd day of October, 2007 in a certain cause numbered GV-203051, wherein City of Austin, Travis County, Del Valle Independent School District, Travis County Healthcare District and Austin Community College are plaintiffs, and Thomas C. Hill are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **\$5,021.04** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 53RD District Court of Travis County, Texas.

as, on August 27, 2007, on the 25th day of October, 2007, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 4th day of December, 2007, at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

266 of an acre out of the Santiago Del Valle Grant as described in Volume 2725, Page 375 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **\$5,021.04** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 29th day of October, 2007.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY
ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY

"AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

GV-501372

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 53RD District Court of Travis County, on the 22nd day of October, 2007 in a certain cause numbered GV-501372, wherein Lake Travis Independent School District, Travis County, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 6 and Travis County Hospital District are plaintiffs, and Harbor Ventures, Inc. and Gordon M. Griffin, Jr., Trustee of the Griffin Family Trust under the will of Gordon M. Griffin, deceased, and Irma H. Griffin, Deceased (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the following sums: **Billing Number 576206 = \$18865.00, Billing Number 752322 = \$24700.69 and Billing Number 42334 = \$3,578.37** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that be-

AV1206 POUND SALE

NOTICE OF SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES IMPOUNDED BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 683.011 ET SEQ., TEXAS TRANSPORTATION CODE, REGULATING THE IMPOUNDING AND SALE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES BY DELEGATE OR PERSONALLY. THE PURCHASER SHALL TAKE TITLE TO THE MOTOR VEHICLE FREE AND CLEAR OF ALL LIENS AND CLAIMS OF OWNERSHIP AND IS ENTITLED TO REGISTER THE PURCHASED MOTOR VEHICLE AND RECIEVE A CERTIFICATE OF TITLE. I WILL PROCEED TO SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH IN THE CITY OF AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED MOTOR VEHICLES WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN REDEEMED BY THE OWNERS, THEREOF TO WIT;

DECEMBER 6, 2007 @ 10:00 AM @ AUSTIN POLICE DEPT., 4308 TERRY-O LANE, AUSTIN, TX 78745

073120500	1990 OLDS	4DR	T50KTW	TX	1G3CX54C8L4337278
075059051	1994 CHRY	4DR	X24JWD	TX	2C3DE56F2RH271173
075059059	1984 VM	TRAL	TX2796	CA	1VMBP1716E1001914
075059059	*****	BT	CF3623JBCA	MHP	21007A585
075059060	1990 FORD	PK	8XC02	TX	1FTEX15V7LK824409
075059224	1998 FORD	2DR	Y20RFG	TX	3FALP1136WR116597
075059642	1994 NISS	4DR	T90JY	TX	1N4BU31D1RC194099
075059644	1987 MERZ	4DR	D61RTH	TX	WDBCA35D3HA343204
075059645	1989 MAZD	4DR	D01NTF	TX	JM1GD3331K1746015
075059646	2000 TOYT	4DR	G61XFB	TX	1NXBR12E4YZ337350
075059647	1985 VOLV	4DR	M77DWR	TX	VY1AX8842F1133541
075059648	1992 MITS	4DR	436SXR	TX	JA3XC47S4NY066675
075059649	1991 GEO	VN	Y07PHP	TX	2C1MR2466M6772773
075059650	1985 FORD	PK	XF4W43X	TX	1FTHX25L3FKA39692
075059651	1989 ACUR	2DR	Y44BNM	TX	JH4KA3263KC002818
075059654	1990 PLYM	VN	P90VPY	TX	2P4FH5130JR652743
075060513	1992 CADI	4DR	F54WRX	TX	1G6CD5385N4324415
075060515	1994 WHGM	PK	2EE225	TX	4V1WDBRH1RN680480
075060837	1989 NISS	2DR	B21NCM	TX	JN1HS36P0KW042285
075060839	1991 CHEV	4DR	V12FRR	TX	1G1BL53E6MW135726
075060840	1999 STRN	4DR	M58CTY	TX	1G8ZK5273XZ280425
075060841	1995 MITS	4DR	V94PZW	TX	4A3AJ56G5SE017771
075060843	1994 PONT	4DR	N61GYS	TX	1G2HX52L2R4269906
075060844	2007 CAND	FB	17ZDFN	TX	5VNBU16207T053246
075060845	2007 CAND	FB	45ZDFN	TX	5VNBU16247T053363

GG CH04 POUND SALE

NOTICE OF SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES IMPOUNDED BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 683.011 ET SEQ., TEXAS TRANSPORTATION CODE, REGULATING THE IMPOUNDING AND SALE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES BY DELEGATE OR PERSONALLY. THE PURCHASER SHALL TAKE TITLE TO THE MOTOR VEHICLE FREE AND CLEAR OF ALL LIENS AND CLAIMS OF OWNERSHIP AND IS ENTITLED TO REGISTER THE PURCHASED MOTOR VEHICLE AND RECIEVE A CERTIFICATE OF TITLE. I WILL PROCEED TO SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH IN THE CITY OF AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED MOTOR VEHICLES WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN REDEEMED BY THE OWNERS, THEREOF TO WIT;

DECEMBER 5, 2007 @ 1:00 PM @ CHOTES WRECKER 10717 RESEARCH BLVD AUSTIN, TX 78759 (512) 832-1692

078000141	1989 NISS	PK	81CFD2	TX	1N6ND11S7KC376872
078000142	1989 PONT	4DR	S19ZRH	TX	1G2NE54U2KC679843
078000143	1991 BUIC	4DR	253GWD	TX	2G4WB54T1M1888284
078000144	1996 FORD	2DR	885CHP	TX	1FALP6243TH141782
078000145	1994 EGIL	2DR	VHW72V	TX	4E3CF34B6RE038060
078000146	1994 MAZD	4DR	X71DRW	TX	1YVGE222C5R5122785
078000147	1988 NISS	2DR	X08RYD	TX	JN1PS24S2JW007954
078000148	1991 FORD	4DR	X22RXY	TX	2FACP72F1MX137061
078000149	1987 VOLV	4DR	Z49KGN	TX	VY1FX8744H1185537
078000150	1996 CHEV	2DR	480RQM	IA	2G1WW12M9T9127511
078000151	1997 FORD	4DR	864MCR	TX	1FALP52U7VA277130
078000152	1992 EGIL	2DR	R44TNX	TX	4E3C344RXNE067425

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the COMMON LAW by Luke Ellis

The material in this column is for informational purposes only. It does not constitute, nor is it a substitute for, legal advice. For advice on your specific facts and circumstances, consult a licensed attorney.

HOLIDAY PURCHASES – CASH OR CREDIT CARD?

I am getting ready to buy some Christmas presents for friends and family. I usually buy things with cash or checks because I don't like to spend on credit. My friends have told me that I should use credit cards instead of cash because they offer more protection for consumers. Are they right?

Yes, consumers do receive extra protection when they buy with their credit cards. Under the Fair Credit Billing Act, a federal law, a credit card company cannot recover money from a consumer's credit card purchase if the merchant who sold the goods or services to the consumer is not legally allowed to recover money for the product.

From the practical perspective of a consumer, the FCBA means that there are several advantages to using your credit card instead of cash. Most importantly, the law allows a consumer to dispute a charge with the credit card company. For example, credit card users can dispute charges for defective products. So let's say that you use cash to buy a radio, and it never works from the minute you take it out of the box. Assuming the store refuses to exchange it, one of your only options would be to sue the store in small-claims court. Alternatively, if you paid for the radio with your credit card, you could contact your credit card company to dispute the charge. (Read previous "Common Law" columns for information on contacting a credit card company to dispute a charge and what information should be included.) Additionally, using your credit card provides consumers protection when they prepay for goods or services that are never delivered.

It is important to remember that this law does not cover all credit card purchases. First, in order to dispute a charge on a credit card, a consumer must not yet have paid the charge. The consumer must also make a good-faith effort to settle the dispute with the merchant, the value of the goods must be more than \$50, and the item must be bought within 100 miles of your home address. Ultimately, if you think the FCBA might cover some of your holiday purchases, it's probably in your best interest to use your credit card instead of cash.

Please submit column suggestions, questions, and comments to thecommonlaw@austinchronicle.com. Submission of potential topics does not create an attorney-client relationship, and any information submitted is subject to being included in future columns.

car

TALK

by Tom and Ray Magliozzi

ALL-WHEEL DRIVE A NECESSARY EXPENSE IN SOME CLIMATES

Dear Tom and Ray:
I'm writing to you from hot and sunny Phoenix. My wife and I currently own a 2004 Subaru Forester. We bought an all-wheel-drive vehicle because we hope to be living someplace where it snows within the next few years. We love the car, but the gas mileage isn't spectacular because of the AWD. However, the owner's manual talks about a way to make the car work in front-wheel drive only: by inserting a spare fuse into the fuse box when you need to drive on a spare tire, so that the AWD system doesn't get ruined. Our question: If we put in this extra fuse to deactivate the AWD and therefore get better gas mileage, are we running the risk of damaging the AWD system over time?
— David

TOM: Well, having lived in the great frozen North for all of our miserable lives so far, we can't imagine why you'd want to move to where it snows. Unless you make your living selling Bronko Nagurski Long Underwear.

RAY: You've actually identified a problem that many people aren't aware of, David: All-wheel-drive vehicles are more expensive to own.

TOM: When you have all-wheel drive, you add an additional set of drive-train components. Those components add weight to the car, which decreases your mileage. They also can add to your repair costs, because there are more things to break.

RAY: So if you live in, say, Florida, Arizona, or Southern California, you do your commuting on paved roads and you don't work for Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom, you probably want to skip the all-wheel drive and save yourself some money.

TOM: A lot of people figure, "Well, it can't hurt. And maybe I'll be in a situation where it will be useful sometime." But they don't realize they're paying for that all-wheel drive every day in lower mileage.

RAY: Now, as you've discovered, David, Subaru does provide a way to deactivate the rear drive shaft. But unfortunately, it really won't help your mileage. Even though you can disconnect the rear drive-train components from the transmission, those parts are still turning (it's just that the rear wheels are pushing them, rather than vice versa). And you're still carrying all of those parts around with you. So you still have the weight and some of the friction of the AWD system, even when it's disconnected.

TOM: So I'm afraid you're out of luck, David. What can you do? Make sure your tires are properly inflated, be sure your engine is tuned and running well, and take that 1,000-pound snowmobile out of the back of the car until you actually make your move North.

* * *

Wait! Don't buy another car without the mechanic's checklist that's included in Tom and Ray's pamphlet "How to Buy a Great Used Car: Secrets Only Your Mechanic Knows." It will help you get a good used car and avoid the clunkers. Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Used Car, PO Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

* * *

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk website at www.cartalk.com.

Tune in to Car Talk each Saturday at 9am on

kut

90.5

AUSTIN TEXAS

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CONTINUED

545

LEGAL NOTICES

ing the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 53RD District Court of Travis County, Texas, on May 15, 2006.

I, on the 25th day of October, 2007, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 4th day of December, 2007, at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

TRACT ONE: BILLING 576206

2.525 acres out of the John McDonald Survey 102, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described as Tract 1 in Document No. 2003178902 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas

TRACT TWO: BILLING NO. 752322

38.705 acres out of the John McDonald Survey 102, and being more particularly described as Tract 2 and 3 in Document No. 2003178902 (SAVE AND EXCEPT THAT 0.40 acre tract as shown in the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas

TRACT THREE: BILLING NO. 042334

0.40 of an acre out of the John McDonald Survey 102, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described as being a portion of Tract 3 as described in Document No. 2003178902 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for the following sums: **Billing Number 576206 =**

\$18865.00, Billing Number 752322 = \$24700.69 and Billing Number 4234 = \$3,576.37 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 29th day of October, 2007.

BRUCE ELFANT, CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5 TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

GV-504895

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 353rd District Court of Travis County, on the 22nd day of October, 2007 in a certain cause numbered GV-504895, wherein Plaintiffs are Travis County Hospital District nka Travis County Healthcare District and Travis County and Intervenor is Elgin Independent School District and Nicholas Ibarra Vara, United States of America/Internal Revenue Service (In Rem Only) and Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin and Travis County (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs and intervenor, for the sum of **\$24,327.16** Dol-

lars, together with costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs and intervenor, in the 353rd District Court of Travis County, Texas, on August 24, 2007.

I, on the 25th day of October, 2007, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 4th day of December, 2007, at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

12 acres out of the Isaac Lindsey Survey 67, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in Volume 12513, Page 2078 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **\$24,327.16** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs and intervenor, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 29th day of October, 2007.

BRUCE ELFANT, CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5 TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

NO. 87,607 ESTATE OF BETTY PALI, aka BETTY JO PALI, DECEASED

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF NUMBER ONE (1) TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Notice to Creditors of the Estate of Betty Pali, aka Betty Jo Pali, Deceased

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of BETTY PALI, aka, BETTY JO PALI, Deceased, were issued on November 15, 2007, in Docket No. 87,607, pending in the Probate Court of Travis County, Texas, to Larry Dean Pali, Independent Executor.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the independent executor, addressed as follows:

Mr. Larry Dean Pali, Independent Executor
Estate of Betty Pali, aka Betty Jo Pali, Deceased
c/o Mr. Roy O. Smithers
LAW OFFICE OF ROY O. SMITHERS, P.C.
3900 Manchaca Road
Austin, Texas 78704-6736

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to Roy O. Smithers, Attorney for the Independent Executor, within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 15th day of November, 2007.

LAW OFFICE OF ROY O. SMITHERS, P.C.

By: /s/ Roy O. Smithers, Attorney for Independent Executor

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES PURSUANT OF TEXAS ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ACT, THE FOLLOWING WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE UNLESS CHARGES ARE SATISFIED WITHIN 10 DAYS.

GARAGE KEEPER: SOUTH-SIDE WRECKER, 8200 S CONGRESS, AUSTIN, TX.

1991 HONDA 1HGCB716XMA043409
1993 NISSAN

IN4BU31F6PC174803
FLATBED TRAILER NO VIN #
1998 JEEP
1J4FJ68S8WL178305
1986 FORD
1FABP30U9GA123993
2000 NISSAN
1N4DL01D8YC155812
1993 FORD PK
1FTCR10A4PUC87119
EVENRUDE MOTOR E02253
1991 PONTIAC
1G2NE52M7VC085802
2003 GEELY MOPED
LB2TAB2103K3A21171

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLE Pinkies American

Towing Inc.: TxDOT VSF #0574407 located at 8917 Circle Dr in Austin, TX, 512-233-4869 has in its custody a 02 Dodge Neon VIN 1B3ES26C92D512205; impounded 11/16/07 by the authority of Travis County Sheriff's Office. The charge as of 11/23/07 is \$429.85; daily storage rate is \$20/day + tax.

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES Pursuant to the Texas abandoned motor vehicle act, the following vehicles will be auctioned off by Central Towing, 7400 FM 969, Austin, TX 78724 unless charges are satisfied within 10 days.

1. 1990 BMW 525i 4d
018VSW
WBAHC22318LGB21364
2. 1989 Chev Cavalier 2d
GDR4762
1G1JC1112K725029

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES Pursuant to the Texas abandoned vehicle motor act, the following vehicles will be auctioned off unless charges are satisfied within 10 days.

BARBARA WILLCOCKS
1989 CAVALIER CELEBRITY
651-CPR-TX
1G1AW81W2K6237991
MARGARITO PEREZ
1994 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX
Y54-TDP-TX

1G2WJ52M4RF233592
JEFF ALLEN
1986 OLDSMOBILE CUT-LASS
V83-MGL-TX
1G3GR47A0GR344718

AUCTION: November 23, 2007 @ 6:00 AM

About Town Towing
2905 W. Howard Lane
Austin, TX 78728
(512) 837-0000

NOTICE OF NEW TRAFFIC REGULATIONS Notice is hereby given that Travis County, Texas, proposes the approval of the following traffic regulation: SET PRIMA FACIE SPEED LIMIT ON JACKS POND ROAD AND WAVECREST BOULEVARD IN PRECINCT TWO. Any resident of Travis County, Texas, aggrieved by this proposed action may make written request for a mandatory public hearing. Such request must be addressed to the Transportation and Natural Resources Department, Travis County, Texas, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas, 78767, and must be received within seven (7) days of this notice.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION FOR PUBLICATION A public auction will be held to satisfy landlords lien pursuant to chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code. **Sales will be held on December 08,**

2007. A sale will be held at 9:00 am at 4405 HWY 71 East, Del Valle Location Phone 512-247-9708. A sale will be held at 11:00 am at 227 Park 35 Cove North, Buda Location 512-312-2227. A sale will be held at 1:00 pm at 10707 IH 35, North Austin Location 512-977-9775. All units will be sold to the highest bidder for cash. Clean up and removal deposit will be required. Seller reserves the right to reject any bid. Sales include items from the following tenant's storage spaces: Marie Soto; hobby horse and miscellaneous boxes. Dolores Lucio; miscellaneous boxes and living room items. Joseph Par-

nell; living room items, print-ell, miscellaneous boxes, table. Denise Evans; pictures and miscellaneous boxes. Richard Sapulveda; tools; miscellaneous items. Lauren Crayton; household items, clothes. Sofia Aleman; household, furniture, miscellaneous. Joe Chavez; miscellaneous. Brian Davis; household items. Kathy Usery; miscellaneous items. Jacat Dominguez; bike, car seat, miscellaneous. Mary Cortez; furniture, household items. Don Franklin; furniture. Julia Salazar; furniture, household items. Kieth Beasley; household items. Olger Rodriguez; miscellaneous and tackle. Steve Eastland; miscellaneous house. Cherry Raymond; miscellaneous and tools.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **Richard L. Hawkins**, Deceased, were issued on November 6, 2007, in Docket No. 87568, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: **Jeanette Lucille Muncy Hawkins**. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Claims shall be addressed to: "Representative, Estate of **Richard L. Hawkins**"
c/o John W. Brodnax
John W. Brodnax, P.C.
1202 Lakeway Dr., Suite 1 Lakeway, Texas 78734"
(512) 261-0101
DATED the 14th day of November, 2007.

/s/ John W. Brodnax
ATTORNEY FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JAMES LYNN LARIMER, Deceased, were issued on October 23, 2007, in Cause No. 87320, pending in the Probate Court No. One, Travis County, Texas, to: Bret J. Larimer and Linda A. Larimer.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: Karl A. Shackelford
Attorney at Law
1608 West 34th Street
Austin, Texas 78703
DATED the 14th day of November, 2007.

/s/ Karl A. Shackelford
Attorney for Bret J. Larimer and Linda A. Larimer
State Bar No.: 00795838
1608 West 34th Street
Austin, Texas 78703
Telephone: (512) 472-1678
Facsimile: (512) 236-9227

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of BEULAH EDNA WILLIAMS, Deceased, were issued on October 30, 2007, in Cause No. 86785, pending in the Probate Court No. One, Travis County, Texas, to: Robert Williams.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: Karl A. Shackelford
Attorney at Law
1608 West 34th Street
Austin, Texas 78703
DATED the 14th day of November, 2007.

/s/ Karl A. Shackelford
Attorney for Robert Williams
State Bar No.: 00795838
1608 West 34th Street
Austin, Texas 78703
Telephone: (512) 472-1678
Facsimile: (512) 236-9227

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Joyce K. Ravenburg, Deceased, were issued on November 15, 2007, in Cause No. 87,635, pending in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to Steve Warrington.

Claims may be addressed in care of the representative, as follows: Steve Warrington, Independent Executor
6627 Whitemarsh Valley Walk Austin, TX 78746

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED this 15th day of November, 2007.

/s/ John J. Migl
ATTORNEY FOR THE REPRESENTATIVE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS On November 15, 2007, Linda Cogburn Compton was issued letters testamentary for the Estate of Amelia Clark Cogburn, Deceased, in Cause No. 87,536, pending in Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas. The address of the executor is c/o Tricia Gray Deats, Craig Hopper, P.C., 400 W. 15th St., Suite 808, Austin, Texas, 78701, and all persons having claims against this estate are required to present them to such address in the manner and time required by law.

Linda Lou Cogburn,
Independent Executor of the Estate of Amelia Clark Cogburn, Deceased

By: Tricia Gray Deats, Attorney for the Independent Executor

NOTICE TO CREDITORS On November 7, 2007, Jonathan E. Kemmerer was issued letters of temporary administration for the Estate of Frances Jeanette Buckler, Deceased, in Cause No. 87,689, pending in Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas. The address of the temporary administrator is c/o Craig Hopper, 400 W. 15th St., Suite 808, Austin, Texas, 78701, and all persons having claims against this estate are required to present them to such address in the manner and time required by law.

Jonathan E. Kemmerer,
Temporary Administrator of the Estate of Frances Jeanette Buckler, Deceased

By: Craig Hopper, Attorney for the Temporary Administrator

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Margaret Teal, Deceased, were issued on October 23, 2007, in Cause No. 86,178, In The Probate Court Number One, Travis County, Texas, to Charles Louis Ray, Independent Executor.

Claims may be presented in care of the Independent Executor of the Estate, and addressed as follows:
Estate of Margaret Teal, Deceased
c/o Charles Louis Ray
118 E. Main Street, Suite 106
Royse City, Texas 75189

All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Michael S. Stern,
Attorney for Charles Louis Ray Independent Executor of the Estate of Margaret Teal

X95-04484

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 345th District Court of Travis County, on the 22nd day of October, 2007 in a certain cause numbered X95-04485, wherein Travis County, City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 and County Education District are plaintiffs, and G. Neil Belden are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **\$2,861.86** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 353rd District Court of Travis County, Texas, on June 13, 2000.

I, on the 25th day of October, 2007, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 4th day of December, 2007, at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 9120, Bar-K Ranches Plat 9, Plat No. 60/1 as described in Volume 7464, Page 480 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **\$2,861.86** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

day of October, 2007 in a certain cause numbered X95-04484, wherein Travis County, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 and City of Lago Vista are plaintiffs, and James Baumgardner and Joy Baumgardner are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **\$5,854.47** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 345th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on September 12, 1995.

I, on the 25th day of October, 2007, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 4th day of December, 2007, at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 66, Block B, Lago Vista, Section2, Plat No. 11/45 as described in Volume 5942, Page 1753 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **\$5,854.47** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 29th day of October, 2007.

BRUCE ELFANT, CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5 TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

X95-04485

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 353rd District Court of Travis County, on the 22nd day of October, 2007 in a certain cause numbered X95-04485, wherein Travis County, City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 and County Education District are plaintiffs, and G. Neil Belden are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **\$2,861.86** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 353rd District Court of Travis County, Texas, on June 13, 2000.

I, on the 25th day of October, 2007, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 4th day of December, 2007, at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 9120, Bar-K Ranches Plat 9, Plat No. 60/1 as described in Volume 7464, Page 480 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **\$2,861.86** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

130

THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE | NOVEMBER 23, 2007 | austinchronicle.com

Witness my hand this 29th day of October, 2007.
BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY
ON THE PROPERTY SOLD,
THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES,
EXPRESS OR IMPLIED,
INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED
TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES
OF MERCHANTABILITY AND
FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR
PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE
PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS
ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT
PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY
AT THIS EXECUTION SALE
MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY
LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS
ON THE PROPERTY. YOU
ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING
WHATEVER INTEREST THE
DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY.
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS,
YOU NEED TO CONSULT
COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

X95-04486
CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE
REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES
BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 53rd District Court of Travis County, on the 22nd day of October, 2007 in a certain cause numbered X95-04486, wherein Travis County, City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 and County Education District are plaintiffs, and Claude T. Compton, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Claude T. Compton, Martha G. Compton, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Martha G. Compton are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **\$5,731.53** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment

I, on the 25th day of October, 2007, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 4th day of December, 2007, at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:
Lot 9110, Bar-K Ranches Plat 9, Plat No. 60/1 as described in Volume 1571, Page 806 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.
THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **\$5,731.53** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.
Witness my hand this 29th day of October, 2007.
BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY
ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

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1995 Civic DX tudor, 5 speed, new motor AC, warranty, \$2950.

1998 Lexus ES300, An immaculate car that came to us with suspension damage. Professionally repaired, like new, can trade, warranty \$7500.

1991 Mercedes 300SE, Recent complete overhaul with new timing chain, valve job. A classy classic that looks and drives excellently. Warranty, trade possible. \$4950.

1992 Celica Convertible, In process of complete restoration. 127k. Full warranty, go with the top down and the tunes up. \$4250.

1993 Honda Civic auto, 2 dr, EX, clean, drives perfectly. Recent 65 point check. Warranty. \$2950.

1997 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo. Leather, auto. Just installed a new motor, timing chain. Cosmetically, mechanically, a "10." recent 65 point check. \$4850.

1997 Ford Ranger V6, 107k., just really clean with warranty. \$3950.

2000 Toyota Solara, tudor, V6. Loaded. An extremely clean car that had cosmetic damage (fully repaired). Full warranty. Can trade. Dark green w/ biscuit leather. \$6950.

1995 Toyota t100, reg. cab pickup. Faded paint, drives as new. AC. Warranty. Economical 4 banger. \$2850.

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


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
GODDESS OF LOVE

I enjoy intellectual conversation with company and demand respect from men. Ultimately, I want someone to genuinely display interest in getting to know me. **lolita**, 27,  **#123960**


CUTE BI-CURIOUS FEMALE

I am looking for someone around my age group, no older than 34. Experienced or inexperienced. Must be attractive, either Latina or Caucasian and be around my same weight. **aust-ingr107**, 22,  **#123569**


REWARDING DOM

Looking for a consistant submissive,not a one time experience. Would like to meet them before anything sexual obviously. If you are in-terested, please feel free to contact me. **TomorrowsWorse**, 23,  **#123509**


YES PLEASE MASTER

Submissive woman would love to find an honest Master to help me become the submissive that i can only dream of. **subntx**, 54,  **#119874**


AUDACIOUS BEAUTY+ BRAIN

i see beauty beyond the orthodox vision of american eyes and seek someone with a strong sense of identity and awareness of the world willing to explore sensuality and sexuality. **SymposiumLover**, 20,  **#119431**


LIBRARIAN LOVER

In an open marriage. Not looking for a relationship. More like a rainstorm; a fun and honest lover. Please no christians or republicans Must love films and libraries. **LucifersWaitress**, 27,  **#119103**

IT'S PLAYTIME BOYS

I'm looking for a man that's sweet and caring but i get bored easily so he needs to be full of surprises. **austin-partygirl1985**, 22,  **#119045**


WANNA JOIN US?

We're a couple, he is 31 she 22 and we're looking for someone to join us for a little fun. Looking for women who share the same fantasies and lifestyle. **txmxxgoddess**, 22,  **#123997**


HOT VIXEN PLAYMATE

I am a very attractive woman, tall, blonde and very sexual...Looking for a female playmate to share fun girl on girl times while my hot boyfriend watches the fun... **mitzifenmore**, 38,  **#123847**


NEED THIRD WHEEL

My wife and I are looking for a third in our circle. Looking for someone to have some fun with. Need to be very sexual. **tongueofjoy**, 29,  **#123619**

LET'S SEE

We are 28/33,he is smokin'and so is she!We are ready to see what's out there.We have pics, so reply with your pics and you'll get them. Let's have some fun! **Something4Us**, 29,  **#123521**


BEAUTY AND BEAST

We are a loving married couple who would like to find an attractive woman between the ages of 19 and 26 thats looking for a one time only fun experi-ence. **peachesncreme**, 20,  **#123452**


FEMALE WANTED

Looking for a sexy woman or couple to join us. Must be ddf. **Curiouscpl**, 28,  **#123082**


BI-RACIAL COUPLE LOOKING

for a female playmate.i'm 5'5" 125lbs. w/a round booty, he's 5'9" 165lbs. EQUIPPED w/a KILLER TONGUE. Friends w/benefits. Female/couple who is ready to experience sexual bliss. Are U ready? **newthingsaustin**, 33,  **#122589**


LOUDLOVINGLOSER

outgoing, talkative person.i adore my friends, family & pets.lover of all music & film genres.can't beat a good live show& when paired with good company, makes for the best dates. **rieslingowl**, 20,  **#124126**


SIMPLE, FUNNY, DRAMALESS

Respectfully entirely too open minded. I process my thoughts before they leave my mouth. I like shows. I'm pretty funny, serious when needed, more glass full type. **Rebecka_Ann**, 24,  **#124084**


AWAKENED

I have been working on my artist project for awhile. Now I have the quality time to find friends and enjoy life. I'm very open,honest person but shy around people. **magic**, 50,  **#124075**


SKINNYDIP ANYONE?

like's animals, live shows, hot poeple, bubbles, movies/tv shows and barton springs.hate's tomato's, spelling, the mall, cigarettes and awkward moments. i like very pretty girls who are sure of themselves. **smile4me**, 18,  **#123970**


LANGUID, LAVISH LOVER

Soft nerd, 25-year old bookseller looking for casual dates and marathon rolls in the hay. Don't deny me the pleasure of your company. **Pippin**, 25,  **#123723**


ECLECTIC SEEKER EXPLORER

GWf ht/wt prop. blessed/cursed with high intellect and eclectic knowledge, passionate, strong-willed,traveled,ve rsed,experienced.SEEKING prof/educated GF into nature, outdoors,pets, long walks/hikes books,TASTING food, digital photography, learning and exploring, no head games, BS. **Tannerjune**, 50,  **#123745**


FUN LUVIN GIRLIE

I am a single mom that needs to get out and have some fun. I typically hang out with my daughter, shop, hike and play on my computer. **HeatherLkL**, 37,  **#123701**


I LOVE REDHEADS

I'm a history nut who loves film and civil rights. I'm not uncomfortable feeling weird and I'm looking for someone who feels the same. **heyyouitsme**, 19,  **#123523**


LIGHT MY FIRE

I'm a classic, curvy, shy cuddle bunny looking for a beautiful, unique, intelligent and open-minded girl who can tolerate my occasional dorkiness and random danc-ing. well? could we get much higher? hahaha. **ganjxnymph**, 18,  **#123442**


FEROCIOUS, FIREY, KIND

I love to laugh at life & look in people's eyes. I'm not afraid of love, but I'm not chasing it. I'm want a strong women - physically emotionally mentally. **Enijen**, 25,  **#123441**


A ZAFTIG CHALLENGE

Looking for something fun, exciting, and dirty. Someone who can teach me a lesson. who's in to anything. make me crave you...what would you do to me? **cat_with_an_island**, 26,  **#121873**


SEEKING SWITCH PARTNER

You-looking for fun first and formost with no pre-conceived expectations. US: Just average people looking for an above average time ;) Prefer sf, couples ok. Inexperienced welcomed. Honesty refreshing. **Bifemaustincpl**, 31,  **#121712**


A BIT COMPLICATED

Open-minded,intelligent people who love to laugh.She's a BBW,so another smart, curvy girl would fit in perfectly. We also both have a fantasy of finding that special T-Girl to get to know. **Life-needsmore**, 36,  **#119936**


FOOT/WS SLAVE

Seeking straight or bi masculine, slim buddies who love to be spoiled with foot massages. If your interested in either foot massages, write me. **Male-FootSearch**, 46,  **#123872**


TICKLE THERAPY

Need a good laugh? Expert tickler will use his wicked light touch everywhere from armpits to toes. Cute, smart, easy-going, respectful, and thorough! Can email a pic on request. **feather_fingers**, 40,  **#122033**


SEXUAL ARTIST

Write if you want to know a well-round-ed, intelligent, thoughtful, sexy man. I enjoy well-rounded hispanic, black and italian men. Low maintenance kind of guy. Casual encounters are fine. **cookster**, 47,  **#121616**


STUD IN STILETTOS

W/M, 49, married and Bi seeks secret encounter with other crossdressers or M/M or M/F couples for erotic pleasures. Too sexy in my stilettoes and stockings. May introduce wife later. **eddyfreestyle**, 50,  **#118296**


HOTGUY LOOKING FOR

Hispanic Bottom, looking for a discret en-counter and a relationship with a Top guy. I am discret Open to new things with guys around my age or younger.46yrs. **antonio_3638**, 43,  **#118402**


LOOKING TO EXPERIMENT

Serial monogomist, looking to explore, be explored, and experiment. Can be shy, but I'm open for trying things. Man/woman or man/woman/woman. intimate encounter or fur relationship. **cyrano**, 27,  **#123432**


MAN'S LADY'S MAN

Handsome, classy, sensual lady's man who loves to be a soft, silky man's lady. Seeking couples and women for a walk on the wild side in my sexy French lingerie. **Pantyboy**, 42,  **#123387**


SEX, SENSUALITY, IMAGINATION!

I'm looking for sensual women and couples who have few inhibitions and enjoy slowing down for sensuous en-counters and open-ended sexual play. MFM 3somes, couple swaps & orgies. Yes! **sexytouch**, 53,  **#122925**


MAKE YOU SCREAM!

Looking for someone to have fun with, see where things go. A roommate with benefits or a kinky girlfriend or TS girlfriend (or friend w/ benefits) would be great. **Metalopn**, 26,  **#122364**


DOM SEEKS SUB

dom seeks sub for play you must be willing submissive given to my plea-sure do what i want how i want when i want if thats clear then contact me. **thief127**, 41,  **#116202**


SUB BI MALE

Hi! Experienced, kinky, submissive, bi male, into almost everything! Sane, safe, DD free, descrete, nasty, kinky and looking to play! **subslut**, 43,  **#122208**


SEXY CROSSDRESSER

Sexy Crossdresser looking for force feminization to teach me the proper ways of womanhood. I have sexy B cupped breasts. Love lingerie, Corsets, Girdles, ect. I'm open to anything new. **jackie66**, 41,  **#122825**


SUBBOTTOM SEEKS TOPS

Submissive Bottom looking for other men to play with. Luv to cross dress if you like that. Safe play and DDF required. **jess53**, 54,  **#116914**


BLONDE SHEMALE TOP

Hot Blonde TS girl, likes to have late night (no strings) fun. Seeking HOT FIT WHITE Guys that like whats going on between my legs. **BlondeHottie**, 32,  **#101055**


DISCREET ADVENTUROUS SEX

Attractive 27 hispanic male here in the ATX, looking for a petite white cute fe-male for some kinky sex. **Atxrider512**, 27,  **#124123**


LONG JOHN

I'm 27 from the Caribbean, slim, brown skin. I'm a Scorpio. I love sex. Making your sexual dreams come true is my mission. **joegrind13**, 27,  **#124117**


SEEKING A NYMPH

Seeking nymph for long-term relation-ship. Must be loving, caring, warm, em-pathetic, considerate, nice and selfless. I am employed and pursuing my third Master's degree. Must love all types of sex. **krazee4you**, 49,  **#123978**


WAKEUP

Uninhibited Austinite looking for uninhibited girl.I am a very affectionate person. I would like to get to know you a little before we go further. Explore, Laugh and Have Fun. **Anytime**, 21,  **#123980**

LATIN LOVER

I'm a nice guy From Venezuela, I'm new in this town and I'm just looking for some fun and distraction but maybe I could find my oyer half. **latinlover24**, 24,  **#123964**

GETCLN2GETDRTY

Laid back funny guy who smiles beatifi-cally looking for a woman who likes to fully dominate, always up for a first date, give me a chance for kinkinesses sake. **dickalan**, 22,  **#123940**

▼TOMORROWSWORSE

REWARDING DOM

Looking for a submissive, a consistant one, not a one time experience. Would like to meet them before anything sexual obviously. Not experienced in many toys (whips, etc) but would love to gain some. If you are interested, please feel free to contact me

read the rest of **TOMORROWSWORSE's** profile or
enter your own profile for **FREE** online at
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THE LUV DOC

Wayne Hancock's Annual 'Dance Yer Stuffing
Off' Turkey Trot • Thu., Nov. 22, 9pm
Continental Club • 1315 S. Congress
www.continentalclub.com/Austin.html


The Thanksgiving turkey is a perfect metaphor for the way you inevitably feel after indulging in America's No. 1 feast: like someone covered you with butter and rammed some starch up your ass. Too bad the Pilgrims couldn't order Chinese takeout. Of course, the turkey the Pilgrims brought to the table was a far cry from the force-fed, 'roid raging superbirds of today. Old timey turkeys were leaner, ropier, and maybe even slightly smarter than their contemporary counterparts who, rumor has it, don't need much more than a brain stem and an open feed hole to subsist. Pilgrim birds were hardly veal grade. You can imagine that after spending a few hours picking blunderbuss birdshot out of a stringy turkey carcass, Squanto probably just threw up his hands and said, "Who wants popcorn?" After all, if you're going to crack your teeth on something, it might as well be organic, right? Turkeys are good for headresses and feather dusters and making silly noises for hillbillies to imitate, but as far as flavor goes, you won't see turkey bumping filet mignon off menus anytime soon. Admit it. The very best turkey - even when it is most succulent, be it deep-fried Cajun style, hickory smoked or honey glazed - is never much better than an average cheeseburger. That is why you never see fast-food restaurants with names like Butterball Tom's Turkey and Stuffing House or Triptophantastic Turkeys To Go. Yawn. Yo quiero Taco Bell! And yet, even though turkey is remarkably bland, it does have a certain gustatory je ne sais quoi that precludes its inclusion in other dishes. Sure, there's turkey tetrazzini and turkey chili and turkey burgers, but the word "turkey" appended to the front of those dishes serves as a functional disclaimer that says, "this won't taste like it normally does." Even though it has feathers, a beak, a wattle, and claws like a chicken, turkey never tastes like a chicken, which is amazing considering that damn near every-thing tastes like chicken if you cook it right. This doesn't make turkey bad, it just makes it both unique and unremarkable at the same time. That kind of zen essence is not an easy thing to pull off, which is just another reason the turkey is the perfect centerpiece for America's yearly homage to gluttony. So go ahead, shovel it down and stretch your gut, you have the other 364 days of the year to titillate your tastebuds. When you're done, loosen up that belt another notch or two and waddle on down to the Continental Club where Wayne "the Train" Hancock is hosting his annual "Dance Yer Stuffing Off" Turkey Trot. Starting at 9, Wayne will be belting out his original blend of "Honky Tonk, Western Swing, Blues and Big Band" that should work you into a big, steaming butterball. Hawt!


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Lovers Lane


free!


women
SEEKING
men


LIVELY AND FUN!
I'm looking for someone to go waltzing in the rain, prancing through creekbeds, and galavanting in the park with. Let's run away on an adventure!
Carrie_E, 20,  **#124111**



LAUGHTER IS NECESSARY
I'm a fun, kind, well-educated woman in search of a man who is the same. I just moved to Austin and I would like to make some male friends.
beagle-baby, 41,  **#124061**


STRESSED COLLEGE CO-ED
I'm the one who drives with the windows down and the radio on full blast. I'm the one who slips and falls and can't help but laugh. I'm the one...
kl1153, 20,  **#124057**


SARAHLEE
My name is SarahLee and i love music,laughing, and my friends. I am a real random person. I am looking for someone who gets my jokes, in college with style.
sarahlee89, 18,  **#124045**



UP TO 5
If your like me, you scroll until you find what you like....
tasha, 38,  **#124020**


AWESOME
i just moved here from southen california, hence the awesome. looking for friends and fun.
nw2twm, 33,  **#123991**


LOOKING TO DATE
I'm a 27 yr old grad student at Texas State U. and work full time. I like to do things outdoors. I love animals, football (go cowboys), arguing (not yelling).
tigertiff816, 27,   **#123956**


NO BODYS BABY
I am funny witty, very sarcastic, I draw Lowbrow flash art. Love ALL kinds of cars, specially hot rods, rat rods, and muscle, and the work done on them.
Susassin, 24,  **#123953**


COULD THIS WORK?
Not sure, but what the heck! I enjoy salsa dancing, traveling, family gatherings and good friends/company... I would like to find someone special with similar traits.
mexican_gordita, 37,  **#123930**

FRIENDLY, LOVING, INTELLIGENT
I am fairly well in the middle of the extrovert/introvert scale. I am a kind, interesting, intelligent, warm-hearted, and growing person.
aprilfourteenth, 54,   **#123925**

BLINDEYESFORWARD
I'm a Yankee (okay it's Michigan, close enough), and as soon as you hear me talk you will know I am not a "Texan". I love to laugh and smile.
allaboutanf3, 21,  **#123892**

HELLO
i am a very good looking girl looking for a man who know what love is all about to a woman.
suolive, 24,  **#123889**

TRUE CONNECTION SAUGHT
Libra metal chick lookin for some love...likes shows,parties,drinkin. Looking for a real connection...whatever else that entails then so be it...must love to go to shows and be a social person...
luvinlady, 20,  **#123845**

I WALK FAST!
Am I delightful? why yes.
bintalbalad, 46,  **#123836**

GONNA LIKE ME!
I'm down to earth, generous with myself, a friend to the earth, sort of spiritual and just a heck of a nice person. Let's talk, form a connection.
WalkinAustin, 50,  **#123606**

CENTEX DOG LOVER
Why, yes, I am older than dirt :) OK, I'm 48. I live outside Austin, but enjoy coming in regularly for books, movies, music. Fun, funny, snarky, and not high-maintenance.
Cronopio, 48,  **#123583**

REBEL YELL
really i'm just trying to find a couple of old friends that got lost along the way.
misslucyurr, 26,  **#118077**

LEMON MEETS HONEY
My experiences are many and varied. Student looking for a fulfilling relationship without definition. INFP
chew-ynougat, 26,   **#123527**

ECLECTIC, FUNNY, KIND
I've been in Austin for almost 8 years. Love it. Looking for someone to spend time with a couple of times a week. Movies, music, dinner, walks, talks, companionship.
austin2638, 47,  **#122576**

NO REPTILES!
philosopher,musician,soapboxer looking for someone just right, to brighten days, and nights. hard working,loving, loyal, and optimistic. NSA, LTR, whatever, just want to find someone to have fun with,no big deal.
roberttheprole, 29,  **#124083**

I LOVE LAMP...
Very shy at first but love when I get a chance to get to open up to people and they get to know the real me. Rather listen then talk.
Mexicola, 23,  **#124079**

A LOVER/FIGHTER
I'm sweet with the best intentions for everyone that I care about, and the worst for those that I don't. If I LOVE you, you're taken care of.
timebomb, 20,  **#123918**

WHATAMIDOING?
Okay I am a first timer so please be gentle. I have been here for a year, but want to try something new. I like watching movies, drinking with friends.
MeatPuppet, 27,  **#124027**

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OPTIMISTIC, LOVING POLYORCHID
High energy, laid back, lovingly irreverent, Irish, love design and art, physical, outgoing, gypsyish, fit, fun, affectionate, encouraging, emboldening, globalist, sensual, mischievous, hedonistic, spiritual, and a lover of love.
whellockroad, 60,  **#123959**

FUN,SEXY,FRIENDS,PARTY,DOSX
work at abercrombie.Love workin out,Partying, playin hockey, chillin with friends.go in to ACC.im a pretty fun person to be around,pretty mature and nice preson.love meeting new people and making new frnds.
abercrombie07dmb, 18,  **#123973**

HONEST, GEEKY, COOL
Been around the block, like some of what I saw. Native Texican of Celtic heritage. Like almost all music including bagpipes. Read westerns, sci-fi, history, home improvement.
westcelt, 53,  **#115938**

PRINCE COMPLEX
Well, I'm very friendly and energetic. I love playing outdoors or chilling indoors, and I love to laugh. Come play with me.
.:) **ScottyScott**, 18,  **#123949**

LONELY AND HUNTING
Fun gentleman looking for friends, more if it develops. I am dependable, funny, creative, helpful, and forthright. I hope to find friends who are the same. Give me a call.
Frostfire, 28,  **#114989**

WOOD DOG
Attractive, fit, healthy, tolerate, considerate, calm, employed. More into experiences than having "stuff". Told often I look mid 30ish. Naturally strong libido. Good with frogs. Seeking a natural female opposite.
wooddog, 49,  **#124016**

LONELY HOPELESS ROMANTIC
I'm looking for an honest best friend to spend a whole lot of time with enjoying life as it comes.
rverred, 47,  **#124007**

LOVE TO CUDDLE!
Divorced, seeking a friend, someone to share life! No strings attached. I love country music, dancing, movies, dining out, etc., care to join? For fun or commitment...? No one-night stands.
Musicmaker, 49,  **#124001**

WELL IMAGINE THAT
The only criteria that I insist on is that I "click" with a person. Whatever type of chemistry that's there (sexual,intellectual,spiritual,conversational) absolutely must produce a tangible initial spark.
Own_Worst_Enemy, 27,  **#123983**

BADTIME 2 FLIRT
I do want a lasting relationship. So if your looking for a tall dark and hansom guy I am him. I am into no games, no drama. So you ready?
AustinSkills, 35,  **#123993**

LIVE FOR LIFE
I am an Austinite looking for happy, funny, affectionate women to hang out with or play with.
Anywhere, 21,  **#123989**

LOUDLOVINGLOSER
outgoing, talkative person.i adore my friends, family & pets.lover of all music & film genres.can't beat a good live show& when paired with good company, makes for the best dates.
rieslingowl, 20,  **#124126**

SIMPLE, FUNNY, DRAMALESS
Respectfully entirely too open minded. I process my thoughts before they leave my mouth. I like shows. I'm pretty funny, serious when needed, more glass full type.
Rebecca_Ann, 24,  **#124084**

AWAKENED
I have been working on my artist project for awhile. Now I have the quality time to find friends and enjoy life. I'm very open,honest person but shy around people.
magic, 50,  **#124075**

SKINNYDIP ANYONE?
like's animals, live shows, hot poeple, bubbles, movies/tv shows and barton springs.hate's tomato's, spelling, the mall, cigarettes and awkward moments. i like very pretty girls who are sure of themselves.
smile4me, 18,  **#123970**

LANGUID, LAVISH LOVER
Soft nerd, 25-year old bookseller looking for casual dates and marathon rolls in the hay. Don't deny me the pleasure of your company.
Pippin, 25,  **#123723**

ECLECTIC SEEKER EXPLORER
GVF ht/wt prop. blessed/cursed with high intellect and eclectic knowledge, passionate, strong-willed,traveled,versed,experienced.SEEKING prof/educated GF into nature, outdoors,pets, long walks/hikes books,TASTING food, digital photography, learning and exploring, no head games, BS.
Tannerjune, 50,  **#123745**


FUN LUVIN GIRLIE
I am a single mom that needs to get out and have some fun. I typically hang out with my daughter, shop, hike and play on my computer.
HeatherLkL, 37,   **#123701**


I LOVE REDHEADS
I'm a history nut who loves film and civil rights. I'm not uncomfortable feeling weird and I'm looking for someone who feels the same.
heyyouitsme, 19,  **#123523**

LIGHT MY FIRE
classic, curvy, shy cuddle bunny looking for a beautiful, unique, intelligent and open-minded girl who can tolerate my occasional dorkiness and random dancing. well? could we get much higher? hahaha.
ganjxnymph, 18,  **#123442**

FEROCIOUS, FIREY, KIND
I love to laugh at life & look in people's eyes. I'm not afraid of love, but I'm not chasing it. I'm want a strong women - physically emotionally mentally.
Enijen, 25,  **#123441**

men
SEEKING
women

TAKE THE PLUNGE
Stable single guy looking to meet nice guys for fun, friendship, and possible long term romance. I enjoy biking, dining, cooking, as well as quiet times at home.
timebuddy, 53,  **#121119**

IS IT YOU?
Where have all the good men gone? I am hoping that you are still there and that you are looking for me too. GBM, 39, looking for you.
Colorado, 39,  **#123381**

BROODING, SHALLOW, PEDANTIC
pragmatist seeks cheeky times. Competent, well balanced men over 30 preferred; short,meaty/husky/stocky, overly educated a plus. Not looking for hookups, instant romance, or teetotalers. Me: 30yo, 6'0, 185lbs, VGL-fit, masc.
Sarkany, 30,  **#123189**

Rieslingowl ▼

LOUDLOVINGLOSER


i am a very outgoing, talkative person. i adore my friends and family (including my pets)... and would go out of my way to help them anytime. i love music and film and always enjoy a good live show. mostly i'd really just like to get to know some good people in the area that share my interests.


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CUTE ITALIAN LEO

I am a poet, a writer, a digital graphic artist, a Romantic, a Macintosh guru and a funny guy. I love the outdoors: camping, hiking, picnicking. Oh, and I'm HIV-positive. **panepinto**, 42,  **#121697**


ATYPICAL, FLACO, EASY-GOING

Eclectic, smart, fun, professional, creative, curious, outdoors, DIY, garden, software, humor, travel. You please be relatively fit, mature, confident, diverse interests, traveled, down-to-earth, spirited, versatile. **divido**, 48,  **#119363**


SEEKING LTR

Laid back, hopeless romantic, jeans and t-shirt type guy looking for Mr Right. Looking for a partner that I can boot-scoot through life. Looking for THE DANCE. **tkaustin**, 49,  **#119526**


REFRESHING AND QUIRKY

I'm a fun and free-spirited person. I love experiencing new things, meeting new people, and living life to the fullest. If this sounds like you, we'll get along quite nicely. **nightblindness**, 24,  **#118639**

SINGLE IN AUSTIN


Hopeless romantic, laid back, down to earth guy, interested in dating, new friendships, and more along the way. I'm looking for guys with good hearts, good head over their shoulders. **juan41381**, 26,  **#115939**

IT'S ALL GOOD!


Looking for a boyfriend? 48 yr. old Hispanic with a lot to offer! I am looking for someone who is SINGLE and honest, no drugs, is that you? Let me know. **Hus-bandMaterial**, 50,  **#115672**

JUST friends


NEW TO AUSTIN

Looking for some new friends to go out with at night. I'm smart, sarcastic, and professional and really, I'm just looking to have fun. **puckplayer**, 22,  **#124100**


OH!

I'm relatively new to the area and am lookin for people of similar mind and vibe to stroll through Austin with and share some good experiences. **cyrus**, 33,  **#124051**

PICK ME!

I am not a fortunate son, in fact, much the opposite. Working hard, learning from mistakes, and constantly challenging my reality for the purposes of self-improvement are philosophies I embrace. **irotsoma**, 30,  **#123976**

HILARIOUS CRAZY GAL

I am looking for a new running buddy or buddies to go out with in Austin. I lost my road dawgs to the enemy of marriage, significant others and kids. **chyllatxgal**, 34,  **#123929**

IT'S JUST BIZAAR

well hello. i just moved to austin. looking for some guys or girls that like to go to shows, do things outside, have random spontaneous nights and drink some. **hayleyxelizabeth**, 20,  **#123848**

CHANGED TIRE DEPOT

Office Depot @ Braker & 183 you came in and asked 2 help change your tire. I did. Me redhair & you blonde and beautiful want to have coffee sometime? **When: Sunday, November 11. Where: Office depot 183 & braker In. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902398**

SANDY, BVI, PHIL

Sandy Kilcrease, (Nee Keefer) we met in British Virgin Islands in 1987/8. We lost contact some time later. Please consider replying, Thanx Phil x **When: Saturday, February 16, 2002. Where: British Virgin Islands, 1987/8. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902397**

DONNA JORDAN TEXARKANA

I met her at the Nutty Brown Cafe. If you know her, and how I can get in touch with her, please contact me! **Robert When: Sunday, September 16. Where: Nutty Brown Cafe. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902396**

PEARLSNAP AT BELMONT

You: Dark hair, redpearlsnap, going to party. Asked if I was driving. Me: Long blonde hair. Talked for a minute. You're the most gorgeous man in Austin. Drink or coffee? **When: Saturday, November 3. Where: The Belmont. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902395**

LUBY'S NELLY FURTADO

Monday 11-12 Luby's RR, noon-ish. You: Furtado looker, orange sweater, jeans, heels. Me: WM, blondish, dining with friends in corner. Locked eyes several times/smiled - flirting? Coffee/drinks? Rick **When: Monday, November 12. Where: Luby's in RR. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902394**

CURIOUS CUTIE.

parking lot of schlotzkies, found wallet. couldn't pay attention to it, busy looking at you. returned the wallet but i think i could still swing buying you a muffin. down? **When: Thursday, November 15. Where: schlotzkies. s.lamar.. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902393**

ELF SEEKS CURLERS-GUY

Elf from The Ultimate Christmas Musical sez: That last kiss left me too breathless to slip you my number; wanna drink some egg nog and trim my tree? Place: Wurstfest. **When: Saturday, November 10. Where: Wurstfest. You: Man. Me: Woman. ☎ #902391**

CHRISTIE (CLUMSY)

Hey - you took an abrupt seat at ACL & we then chatted outside & I struggled w/ eye contact. How are you feeling today? Still wanna swim ? **When: Monday, November 12. Where: ACL. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902387**

Cindie's messages

ARCHBISHOP JOSÉ GÓMEZ:

Never the Church fell so silent in the face of human degradation. Why have you forsaken us? Paul Avíña.

ED TODD You called on 10/22. You had the rite number. Please forgive me I froze up. Please try again.

AS I REMEMBER, both our days fall in early november. The desire to catch just one glance, only to know you're well, is the hardest temptation I ever fought. Forever you'll be my first waking thought. LOVE K.

MITZI DOUGLAS Where are you? I am lost.

WILL, TO HOLD u to feel u breathing, and to see u smile:) is my whole world 4ever! Susie

BISCUITS AT PETSMART

I asked you how to spell Biscuit...You have a dog named Shiva... **When: Thursday, November 15. Where: Petsmart. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902400**

LAURA! BEST HAIRSTYLIST!

Last year you worked at Birds on S. Lamar. You used to work on runways in Paris. I gave you business cards with pretty photos. Where you working now? **When: Sunday, October 1, 2006. Where: Birds Barbershop. You: Woman. Me: Woman. #902390**

11/10 @ J.BLACKS

You: Looking hot in a floral dress and heels. Me: bought you a Grey Goose press and shared a cigarette. You left before I could get your number. Another drink? **When: Saturday, November 10. Where: J.Blacks. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902389**

AMERICAN GANGSTER CHAT

Drafthouse South, Sun. 11/11. Enjoyed banter in line. How'd you like the movie? Coffee/drinks sometime? You: great smile, dark hair, white shirt, glasses Me: brown hair, blue shirt **When: Sunday, November 11. Where: Alamo Drafthouse South Lamar. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902388**

CHRISTIE (CLUMSY)

Hey - you took an abrupt seat at ACL & we then chatted outside & I struggled w/ eye contact. How are you feeling today? Still wanna swim ? **When: Monday, November 12. Where: ACL. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902387**

ZAPPA PLAYS ZAPPA

Walking down 24th after the show. You: Brunette, beautiful smile Me: Big goatee, large boot We talked - it was an infectious biscuit moment. Let's have coffee and a movie. **When: Tuesday, November 13. Where: UT Campus 24th Street. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902392**

MOJITO DANCER@219WEST

You made my Sat night! I never knew that you can make a Mojito look so good! Love the "Mojito Dance"! Want to do the dance with me? **When: Saturday, November 10. Where: 219 West. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902386**

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MORE Shot in the Dark!
Now with photos so you can see who saw you. Search by When, Where, and Keywords. **FREE!**

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

by Rob Breznsy for November 23 - November 29

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21): The visionary genius Isaac Newton revolutionized science and math. His biographer James Gleick says he discovered "more of the essential core of human knowledge than anyone before or after." Ostensibly, Newton was humble, writing that "if I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants." But he did not actually believe that, writes Salon.com's Farhad Manjoo in his review of Gleick's book. And the fact is that Newton's breakthroughs "were not incremental, not the logical conclusion to centuries of study," but rather the result of "a supernatural, superhuman intuition." This is the kind of intelligence I suspect you'll be able to summon in the coming weeks as you expand your understanding of your place in the world. It will be as if you're snatching raw truths fresh from eternity; as if you're the beneficiary of utterly novel insights that nothing in your life has prepared you for.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19): George Washington and Thomas Jefferson were great leaders who were instrumental in creating the United States, but they shared a flaw with most of the other founding fathers: They owned slaves. Only one of the men who midwived the birth of the nation freed his human chattel: Virginia plantation owner Robert Carter, whose heroism has been largely unsung in the history books. Make him your role model in the coming weeks, Capricorn. It's a good time to meditate on those people you've held down, oppressed, or manipulated (even if it was inadvertent or unconscious), and then correct for how you've interfered with their full blossoming. I'm not saying you're any guiltier of this sin than the rest of us; just that this is your special time to atone.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): In the coming weeks, you will have an unusually large capacity to see what has been invisible and name what has been unspeakable. You will be adept at solving dull old problems and creating brilliant new ones. You will also have extraordinary power to dissolve restrictions and impose creative limitations, outwit evil and dream up tricky ways to be good, drum up freedom and escape apathy, and rebel against or uphold tradition as necessary. Use your amazing mojo craftily, Aquarius!

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): "You owe it to us all to get on with what you're good at," said poet W.H. Auden. Make that your motto in the coming weeks, Pisces. Your motivation for doing the useful work you love to do should not come from you alone. We, the rest of the world, want to be there inside you so that we can root you on and encourage you to give us your very best gifts. Tap into and refine and explore your talents for your own sake, yes – but do it for us, too.

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): When life gets weird, should you take refuge in decorum and tradition? Should you intensify your commitment to the humdrum? Is it wise to dress more conservatively, act more dignified, and smile more automatically? I say no. When the daily rhythm veers off track into unexpected detours, I say it's prime time to gleefully depart from the way things have always been done. In fact, I advise you to cultivate your rebellious questions and celebrate the unusual impulses that bubble up. They will help you harvest the epiphanies that life's weirdness is tempting you to pursue.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20): "When you die," says the Koran, "God will call upon you to account for all the permitted pleasures you did not enjoy while on earth." There's a similar idea in the Talmud: "A person will be called upon to account, on Judgment Day, for all the permitted pleasures he might have enjoyed but did not." This thought should serve as a central theme for you in the coming weeks, Taurus. Don't worry, you won't die for many years. But to activate your highest spiritual potentials in the near future, you must plumb the depths of bliss, joy, amusement, and fun.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20): Your intentions have been fine, but you've been a bit off in executing your intentions. It's like you were building a love nest in a parking garage, as if you've been hosting a dinner party with fascinating guests at McDonald's, as if you were confessing profound secrets to a narcissist who wasn't really interested. In other words, Gemini, you have been doing the right things in the wrong places. But I expect that a lucky break will soon shove you out of this awkward disjunction, bringing your style and content into harmony. (p.s. Why not go out and induce that lucky break immediately?)

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22): Lishui is a rapidly growing industrial city in China. With the government's help and blessing, developers have been transforming rugged farmland into level parcels suitable for manufacturing facilities. In recent years, engineers have used dynamite and dump trucks to flatten 108 hills and mountains. The official motto that guides workers is "Each person does the work of two; two days' work is done in one." While I don't normally recommend that you engage in such extreme labors, the coming weeks will be a favorable time to make an exception. You'll have cosmic forces on your side if you do the work of two as you carry out the equivalent of demolishing mountains.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22): The bad news is that Indonesia has the fastest rate of deforestation on the planet, and is one of the top three producers of greenhouse gas pollution. The good news is that on Nov. 28, the people of Indonesia will unleash the most intense orgy of tree-growing in the history of the world. They're scheduled to plant 79 million saplings in 24 hours. You Leos might also consider undertaking a massive display of fertility in the next three weeks. Your creative powers will be at a peak; your ability to coax abundant life out of seeds and sprouts will be extraordinary.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22): Because of changes in agricultural techniques, food is nowhere near as nutritious as it used to be. Vegetables grown on modern factory farms have 27% less calcium and 37% less iron than they did in 1975, for example, as well as 21% less vitamin A and 30% less vitamin C. So if you want to avoid being starved of essential nutrients, you either have to eat a huge amount, take supplements, or consume organic food. Are there any other areas of your life where the sustenance levels have dropped, perhaps without your full awareness? Is there an activity that no longer provides you with the boost it used to? Your assignment is to explore this possibility. If you find something's lacking, take immediate measures to make up for what you've been missing. (For more info about food's shrinking nutritional value, go here: www.tinyurl.com/yw4htk.)

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22): Talk normally as little as possible in the coming week. Instead, try to communicate primarily by whispering, singing, laughing, speaking in rhyme, using foreign accents, making animal noises, and imitating cartoon characters. In my astrological opinion, this could free you to express feelings and thoughts that you've been unwisely suppressing. It would give you the power to access potent information that neither your monkey mind nor your rational mind has much interest in.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): A while back I asked my readers, "What conditions would you need in your world in order to feel you were living in paradise?" I'll report to you how one Scorpio responded, since it's very apropos to your immediate future. "My utopia," wrote Sandra Boyd of Vancouver, "would require me to be desired, loved, and satiated amidst messy order and cockeyed perfection." I urge you to create that exact set of conditions, Scorpio. Get out there and cultivate the funny logic, wild discipline, and chaotic organization that will help ensure you'll be fiercely adored.

Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Breznsy's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 877/873-4888 or 900/950-7700.

a Shot in the Dark

WHOLE FOODS 6TH

You:deli counter, dark hair, blue shirt, jeans, work boots. Me: salad bar, blonde,teal sweater, jeans, with daughter. Wish I had said something but meat jokes would have been too obvious. **When: Thursday, November 15. Where: Whole Foods Central Deli Counter. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902418**

SEXY PIRATE HALLOWEEN

I was a submissive. We said we'd meet next year at the cave. You made me swear. Would you like to meet sooner? **When: Saturday, October 27. Where: Cave Halloween Party. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902417**

AETCHEIGHT LOVER'S LANE

I really like your photography. **When: Monday, November 19. Where: Lover's Lane. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902416**

PEACOCK!

I was hating my socks, but I was loving your peacock act, want to be birds of a feather and connect four? **When: Friday, November 16. Where: Mars. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902415**

SEXY AT STEAKHOUSE

30-something Asian woman wearing yellow sweater, sharing a meal with girlfriends. Couldn't take my eyes off you!! I have blonde hair and was dining with my folks few tables away. **When: Saturday, November 17. Where: Cool River Cafe. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902414**

BROWN BRONCO DRIVER

I was the tall blond stealing glances at you while you glanced at art. Passed at two studios and I was still too shy to say hi. Third time's charm??? **When: Saturday, November 17. Where: East side Art Crawl. You: Man. Me: Woman. ☎ #902413**

LUCKY AT LUCKLOUNGE

You: Blonde, bought Boombox panties, put on behind my desk. Me: Glasses, quirky merch. You changed panties because me, too shy to do anything, let me know if I can... **When: Tuesday, October 16. Where: Lucky Lounge. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902412**

AUSTIN TO DALLAS

Boarding SW Flight 900/Wed. You Dallas suit and long ponytail, me long hair and turquoise shirt. Do you always stare so long into ones eyes or was it my soul? **When: Wednesday, November 14. Where: Austin airport. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902411**

BJ'S RESTAURANT

you: oklahoma fan, great smile, short brown hair Me: sitting at the table next to you I just moved to Austin. Would you like to hang out? **When: Saturday, November 17. Where: BJ's restaurant. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902407**

LOVE i will tell you later,i will tell you later,i will tell you later,i will tell you later,i will tell you later,i will tell you later,i will tell you later,i will tell you later, **When: Saturday, November 17. Where: google. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902399**

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